

THE
MEMOIRS
OF

Mrs. Sophia Baddeley;

LATE OF DRURY LANE THEATRE.

BY
Mrs. ELIZABETH STEELE.

IN SIX VOLUMES.

VOL. IV.

L O N D O N:

Printed for the AUTHOR, at the Literary Press,

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M.DCC.LXXXVII.

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business; but if I would give him any commands, he would execute them the

best manner. His mother was prudent. I

deigned to give him no commands; but

spoke to him as to a friend, and was in

I then asked for Miss. I then asked for

Mrs. Sophia Baddeley.

"Miss was in the way!—I expected you

"I know the house. I have heard

"any thing of Miss. I have heard

I Set off to her father's with all the expedition I could make, our carriage being then at the door, considering in the way how I should explain matters. When I reached his house, I went into the warehouse, and enquired for him. The warehouse-man said, he was at home, but could not be spoke to on any

business; but if I would give him my commands, he would execute them the same as if his master was present. I begged to know if Mrs. Brown could be spoke to. He said she was at Margate. I then asked for Miss. "Ah," said he, "ma'am," shaking his head, "I wish Miss *was* in the way!—I perceive you know the family.—Have you heard any thing of Miss Brown's being from home?" Wishing to hear all I could, I asked how long she had been absent.—"Three days," returned he, "and no one that we know has seen her. My master can hear nothing of her, and is almost distracted: for he raves at times like a mad-man, and despairs of ever seeing her again; of course

stand

2 A

Ma'am

MRS. SOPHIA BADDELEY. 7

"ma'am you will now judge how unfit
"he is to be spoke with on business."
"I am sorry," replied I, "to hear all
"this, but must see him notwithstanding
"ing; and the sooner the better; there-
"fore, pray shew me to him, and I will
"take upon me to say, he will not be
"displeased with you." I, at last, pre-
vailed with him, and he shewed me up
to a large room, where sat a decent
creditable person, having his night-cap
and morning gown on, with a handker-
chief up to his face, and in a melan-
choly posture. He rose from his seat,
and requested me to sit down.—I beg-
ged pardon for my intrusion; but, hav-
ing something to communicate, which I
flattered myself would give him com-
fort,

fort, was the cause of it. "Alas, ma-
" dam," said he, "I have need of that,
" for you see, before you, as miserable
" a man as breathes.—Pray tell me
" good lady, do you know any thing
" of my lost child?" "I do sir," re-
turned I, "and have to tell you she is
" well." "God be praised then!" ex-
claimed he; "I am happy.—This, ma-
" dam, is real comfort.—Where is she?
" Am I in my senses or not!" He ran
about the room half wild, and then sat
down to thank me for the information,
and begged I would tell him all I knew
about her, and where he could go and
fetch her home; saying, she was an
only child, and tenderly did he bring her
up; that he had been working many

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MRS. SOPHIA BADDELEY. 9

years for her; that all he had she would
one day enjoy; and that of course he
wished her well settled in life, and to be
the wife of some man of credit and re-
putation; instead of which, she had
frustrated all his hopes, by falling in
love with one of his shop-men, whom
she had agreed to marry privately. "Be-
ing informed of this, said he, I was
offended; and in heat of anger, from
some words she made use of, bid her
get out of my house, and never let me
see her more. She, foolish girl,
rashly took me at my word, and went
away, and though I have searched all
London after her, could hear nothing
of her. This, madam, was the cause
of my unhappiness. My hastiness has
been

“ been it's own punishment; for like a
“ too fond father,”—(here he burst into
tears, and I could not but do the same),
“ like a too fond father—I feel I love
“ her, in spite of her perverseness.”—
“ Come then, sir,” said I, “ with me,
“ and I will bring you to her.—I have
“ a coach at the door at your service.”
He put on his coat, and was ready in
five minutes, telling his servant he
should return in an hour or two. When
he saw the carriage and the servants, he
begged my ladyship's pardon, and apo-
logized for his want of respect: I told
him that I was not honoured with a ti-
tle, but nevertheless was happy I had
it in my power to make him so.—“ For
“ God's sake, my dear madam,” said
he,

he, "where did you meet with my
 "daughter?" For he could now talk
 to me with composure; and was quite
 another man. I told him, when he saw
 her, he should know the whole, and
 begged him, till then, to rest easy; for
 that he would soon be with her. When
 we reached home, he was conducted
 up to his daughter, who was then in
 bed. He flew to her, took her in his
 arms, kissed her, and cried over her:
 and this meeting is better conceived
 than described. She hung round his
 neck, wept bitterly, and, as well as she
 could utter her words, craved her fa-
 ther's pardon, and his blessing, to
 an unworthy daughter. "Yes, my
 "dear child," returned he, "with all
 "your

“ your faults, and all your indiscretions;
“ I feel I am still your father, and can-
“ not but forgive you. My rashness
“ proceeded from the warmth of my
“ affection to you; and if you must
“ throw yourself away, I fear I must
“ submit to it.” “ Dear sir,” returned
she, “ talk not in that strain, I will en-
“ deavour to think better; and, if pos-
“ sible, deserve the love you have this
“ day shewn me.” This affecting in-
terview brought tears from us all; but
they were soon changed into joy. Din-
ner had been waiting some time. The
young lady rose, and dressed herself;
and she and her father dined with us.
After dinner, Miss retired for a few mi-
nutes, and we told Mr. Brown every
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thing that passed, and he would have fallen on his knees to thank us, if we had not prevented him. When Miss returned, he took her again into his arms, and wept over her with joy. She then fell on her knees, thanked him for his tenderness to her, who so little deserved it, and hoped, that he would conceal the story from her dear mother, lest it should make her as unhappy as it had done him. Mr. Brown, now wishing to return home, our coach was ordered; and with a thousand thanks and blessings on us both, the young lady saying, she owed her life to us, and her father declaring we had restored all he held dear on earth, this affectionate couple took their leave; and the self-

gratification this scene afforded, increased our desire of doing further good, and made us search for occasions.— There is scarce a person living, but has, at times, opportunities of relieving the distressed, and gladdening the afflicted; and, I am persuaded, if men were but conscious of the secret pleasure it affords, independent of the reward religion promises, they would never slip the happy moment; and, it is but justice, due to Mr. Brown and his family, to say, that they shewed us their friendship on all occasions, and he was grateful to the hour of his death. Miss afterwards married a tradesman in good circumstances, with the approbation of her father, but died in child-bed.

This

This event had brought on such a self-complacency in Mrs. Baddeley and myself, as made us wish to employ the evening uninterrupted, in our own reflections; but, Lord Melbourne came and discomposed us. He came in haste, he said, just to keep his word, and bring us some money; that he left his company at the play-house, and must instantly return. This said, he gave me a paper rolled up, saying, I must do with that as well as I could for the present, and in a few days I should have more. When he was gone, I gave it to Mrs. Baddeley, and she opened it: finding it contained only one hundred and fifty pounds, she exclaimed, "Here's a falling off, indeed!" — "You must

“now,” said I, “be more prudent, or
“how will your debts be paid? Let
“us put an end to some of our ex-
“pences, let us keep fewer servants.”
“O, God,” returned she, “then we
“shall have nothing decent about us.—
“I cannot consent to this.”—“Well,
“then,” said I, “be less expensive in
“your dress. Confine it to five hun-
“dred pounds a year.” “Christ,” ex-
claimed she, “that is not enough for
“millinary!” “It does not signify,”
returned I, “stop you must, or ruin
“will ensue.” “I cannot,” said she,
“nor will I be abridged in my dress.—
“One may as well be dead as not in
“the fashion, and I am determined I
“will follow them all.”—I told her, if

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she thought of marrying, she must find a way to get out of debt, or the Lord have mercy on the poor man who was to be her husband, for he would soon be in a jail. "That indeed," returned she, must be well considered, for I "would not injure Mr. Gill for the "world. Poor, dear young fellow!—" "I know money will procure any thing, "and, if it costs me a thousand pounds, "I will have a divorce; but, be assur- "ed, my dear Steele, let that take "place when it will, I never will think "of marrying, till I am entirely free "from debt." "Then," said I, "the "way to begin, is to pay away what "we have, as far as it will go; for, "every bill we pay, will make the debt

“ less.” “ No,” replied she, “ I won’t
“ suffer a shilling to be paid, till I get
“ more money. I think it is proper I
“ should have some money in my
“ pocket; give me fifty pounds, and I
“ will handfale my new purse for luck,
“ and you shall see how careful I will
“ be of it.” This served only to gra-
tify every idle, extravagant thought;
for, in the morning, I was called from
breakfast to a Mrs. Millidge, a dancer
of Drury-lane Theatre, of whom Mrs.
Baddeley had some time before agreed
to take a set of Worlidge’s gems; and,
whilst I was paying her, and talking
to her about theatrical matters, which
might detain me about three-quarters
of an hour, she had purchased eight
white

white mice, with red eyes; a handsome squirrel cage to keep them in; a silver collar and bell for her cat, and new cages for all her birds. I hated mice. She said, they cost her but two pounds twelve shillings, and if I disliked them, she would give them to my sister. In short, in four days, of her fifty pounds, she had not a shilling left; and, when I represented to her the madness of thus squandering her money, and particularly at a time it was so much wanted, and without having any thing to shew for it; she acknowledged the truth of it, threw me her empty purse, and said, I might keep it for her folly.

Lord

Lord Falmouth now paid us a visit, and told us, Count Haflang had paid dear for his frolick, (for he had been made acquainted with the circumstance) saying, he had no rest since it happened, for the pain in his back, which was also attended with a pain of mind; for he was at the same time desperately in love with Mrs. Baddeley, and begged of him to declare it; "and, indeed," said his Lordship, to Mrs. Baddeley, "he has employed a very improper advocate, for I am over head and ears in love with you myself." Mrs. Baddeley smiled, and said, he was paying his lady a very poor compliment, to leave so amiable a woman, to place his affections upon her. "I am not alone in
"opinion,"

"opinion," returned his Lordship, "for
 "you are so engaging, and bewitching
 "a creature, that half the world is in
 "love with you." Mrs. Baddeley rea-
 soned so sensibly with him on this sub-
 ject, that his Lordship candidly con-
 fessed he thought himself at liberty to
 rove as he pleased; and told her the
 following story, which he assured her to
 be a fact.

"When first I saw Lady Falmouth,"
 said he, "she was a pretty girl, and
 "being then young myself, I made
 "propofals to her to live with me, but
 "did not think of her as a wife. She
 "would not listen to me in this re-
 "spect, but I omitted no steps to
 "bring

“ bring her over to my wishes, and
“ at last succeeded. However, like the
“ rest of our ungrateful sex, a little
“ time weaned my affections, and she
“ became indifferent to me, though her
“ affection for me did not abate. I
“ must own myself in fault, and, per-
“ haps, should have relented, but she
“ afterwards played me a trick, which
“ I never have forgiven, nor ever will.
“ She was taken ill of a fever, and was
“ apparently so bad as to be thought in
“ danger. Every necessary assistance
“ she had, at my request, and she got
“ better: she then applied to her physi-
“ cian, brought him over to her interest,
“ and perswaded him to say, and tell
“ me, that there was no hopes of her
“ recovery;

" recovery; that her fever was en-
 " creased by her unhappiness of mind,
 " conscious of having lived with me in
 " sin, she could not die in peace, un-
 " less I would condescend to send her
 " to the grave an honest woman. This
 " circumstance had such an effect with
 " me, as to make me rather unhappy
 " also; and, I was induced by her in-
 " treaties, the persuasions of her phy-
 " sician, and the assurances I had from
 " him, that she could not recover; to
 " send for a licence and clergyman, and
 " marry her. The ceremony was no
 " sooner over, than she visibly grew
 " better, had the impudence to tell her
 " nurse, that she affected this illness to
 " answer the purpose she wished; and,
 " the

“ the next day, when I returned home
“ to dinner, I found her in full health,
“ and at the head of my table. She
“ now told me she was a happy woman,
“ and from that time made me know
“ that she was my wife. The decep-
“ tion she made use of, I would never
“ forgive, and her Ladyship and I have
“ never lived happily since.” “ If your
“ Lordship,” replied Mrs. Baddeley,
“ would not be offended with me, I
“ would give you my sentiments on this
“ subject.” He should be glad, he
said, to hear them. “ Now, my Lord,”
returned she, “ if the deceitful trick
“ your lady played, is, as you acknow-
“ ledge, the cause of your present un-
“ happiness, how much cause had she

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“ to be angry with you, for violating
“ her honour, under the specious pre-
“ tence of love and affection; when you
“ could think proper to desert her, and
“ almost occasion her death? And,
“ because she thought proper to secure
“ you to herself, by an artifice, that any
“ honest woman would glory in, you
“ now tell me you despise her. For
“ shame, my Lord!—Never mention
“ this story again for your own sake.
“ Your lady certainly deserves you, and
“ you cannot do enough to convince
“ her of it.”—“ I am sorry,” said his
Lordship, “ that you and I differ in
“ opinion, therefore we will talk no
“ more of it.” Mrs. Baddeley then
went to her harpsichord, and his Lord-
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ship finding no attention was paid by her to his declarations, soon made his bow and left her.

We next ordered our carriage, and went to Hammer-smith; where, a young gentleman called on us, said his name was Colonel Harcourt, and wished to know, as we were so little at that house, whether we were disposed to let it, saying, he would give us what rent we pleased. This was only a pretence for introducing himself to Mrs. Baddeley, in order to declare an attachment which hundreds had done before; but, he was soon given to understand, that her affections were fixed and immoveable; and, on my reminding her, that she was to be

in

in town at a certain hour, he politely took his leave. Stopping, in our way home, at a shop in Kensington; we met Mr. Thomas Stanley; this gentleman was a Major in the 79th regiment, and died at Jamaica. He was the brother of the present Lord Derby. He asked us to walk into Kensington-gardens; but, on our declining it, said he had seen Mrs. Baddeley the other day at her window, in Grafton-street, wished for an opportunity to speak to her, but dared not, and hoped she would permit him to wait on her at some future time. She replied, he might call if he pleased, but as she was seldom at home, he would probably not meet with her.

On our return home we found the following card from Lord Falmouth.

“ Lord Falmouth presents his compliments to Mrs. Baddeley, and if she is not engaged this evening, will do himself the honour to wait on her.

“ St. James’s-square,

“ Thursday, three o’clock.”

To which she returned as follows.

“ Mrs. Baddeley’s compliments wait on Lord Falmouth, informs him she is engaged this evening, but will be happy to see his Lordship at any other time.

“ Grafton-street,

“ Thursday, five o’clock.”

Baron

Baron Diede called, was admitted and drank tea with us; his visit was to make a proposal to Mrs. Baddeley, to go abroad with him, saying, she should share his fortune; but to this application she was also deaf; and declaring she was engaged, he requested he might then be admitted into the list of her friends, and be permitted to call on her occasionally. Mrs. Baddeley's answer was, that his polite behaviour to her at all times, commanded her respect, and she should be proud of the honour of classing him among those whom she most esteemed. It was now nine o'clock, but notwithstanding this, Mr. Storer called, dressed more like a dancing master than any thing else; having red heels to

his shoes. He danced, and sung, and jumped about the room; and said, he was a happy fellow to catch us at home disengaged; and hoped Mrs. Baddeley was out of leading strings; alluding to my opposition to his seeing her. "Yes," returned I to him, "she can go without being led by you." He replied, he did not mean to offend me. "But sir," returned I, "I mean to offend you, and must tell you, that your coming here is not at all agreeable to me."—"I cannot help it ma'am," said he, humming a tune; "I must come where Mrs. Baddeley is, for I will see her as often as I chuse."—"Indeed you will not," said Mrs. Baddeley, "for I do assure you, such beha-

"viour

“viour to Mrs. Steele, is an affront to
 “me.” “I beg Mrs. Steele’s pardon,”
 returned he, “I never wish to say a
 “rude thing to *her*, if she does not be-
 “gin with me.” “Madam,” contri-
 nued he, addressing himself to me,
 “Mrs. Baddeley and I are better ac-
 “quainted than you suppose.”—I told
 him I did not understand him, nor did
 I wish to do it; and hoped he would not
 put me under the necessity of behaving
 to him in a manner I was not disposed
 to do. He begged my pardon, said,
 it was true that he was in my house,
 but that notwithstanding, he would take
 no denial to see his dear angel, for see
 her he must and would, at the risk of his
 life. At this, he contemptuously danc-
 ed

ed round the room, and hummed a tune like an opera dancer. Upon my saying he kept us at home, he replied, "Do I?—Then I'll take myself off, which is what you wish;—so good night, my dear Mrs. Baddeley!"—and to me, "good night, sweet nurse!" and off he went. When he was gone, I asked Mrs. Baddeley what he meant by saying, he and she was better acquainted than I supposed. She replied, he was a villain for that; she could explain it, but was too much ashamed of his behaviour to her to mention it. In short, I found what he said to be too true, and told her we must not suffer him to come any more to our house.

The

The next morning we went to a sale of pictures, at Christie's, in Pall-mall. The room was crowded with persons of distinction. Mr. Thomas Stanley joined us, and continued with us all the time we were there, and seeing Mrs. Baddeley admire a picture of a miser, he bought it, and made her a present of it. Sir Cecil Bishop, also observing her to notice two pictures of fruit, purchased them, and sent them home to her. On leaving the room, Mr. Stanley handed her to her carriage. On our return home, we found Admiral Spry, who came to dine with us uninvited. He acquainted us with an odd accident that happened in his way to our house. "Whenever
" I see any barbarity used to horses, I
" always

“ always make a point,” said he, “ of
 “ putting a stop to it. As I came
 “ through Bond-street, a dray-man was
 “ beating his horses unmercifully, so
 “ that the lookers on said, it was a
 “ shame; this did not check him, but
 “ he went to the fore-horse, and kick-
 “ ed him, and beat him about the head
 “ with all his strength. Three women
 “ standing by me, I said, I would give
 “ a guinea, if any one would take his
 “ whip from him, and give it him well.
 “ One of the women replied, ‘ Give
 “ us, your honour, but half the money,
 “ and we will warm him to your satis-
 “ faction.’ I promised them I would,
 “ and one of the women went up to him,
 “ snatched the whip from him, and whilst

“ the

“ the

"the other two held him, laced him
"so soundly on the legs, and back, till
"he cried out for mercy. 'Mercy, you
"dog!' said she, 'Shew mercy to your
"horses, and then you would not de-
"serve such correction!' In short, the
"more he cried, the more she whip-
"ped him, till I interfered, and said he
"had had enough of it. The men who
"stood by, took the part of the women,
"and broke his whip to pieces. I gave
"the women the guinea with pleasure;
"for every person present seemed to en-
"joy the man's punishment; and I be-
"lieve he will remember this day as
"long as he lives."

The

The Admiral told us he was going to the Mediterranean; said, he should be gone six weeks, and if we were disposed for a trip to sea in fine weather, he should be glad of our company. He left us, with saying, Mrs. Baddeley was an errant thief, and it was a sin in her to rob an old man of his *heart*, when he did not know how soon he might be attacked by the enemy, and should be in want of it. We went to the play; brought Lord Melbourne home with us, and when we reached Grafton-street, found the cook had fired the kitchen-chimney, and the house full of all sorts of rabble. They had extinguished the fire, but at our loss of a silver candlestick. And during this confusion,

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Lord Lytelton, who was going by, got out of his carriage to offer his assistance, but Mrs. Baddeley was inattentive to all but her cats; and her favourite one having, I apprehended, run up a chimney, for it was so black, that she spoiled a beautiful white sattin petticoat she had on, by taking it in her lap.

Lord Melbourne, saying he should go into the country, for a week; we proposed to go down to my house near Henley; and Mrs. Baddeley wrote to Mr. Gill to meet her there. Mr. Stanley called the next morning, was warm in his addresses to her, and acted so ungentleman-like, that she reprimanded him in a manner that did her credit.

He begged her pardon, and they parted friends.

We were visited, at this time, by most of the foreign ministers; but, the Neapolitan ambassador, in 1773, was an eternal plague to us; he was ever at the door, and would take no denial, nor could we affront him, say what we would. At this gentleman we had many a laugh; for, when he was with us, at every rap at the door, he would have run into a dust-hole, rather than be seen. One day, having a mind to make ourselves merry at his expence, we ordered our servant to rap loud at the door, and say Lord March was come. The ambassador was for secreting himself,

ran

ran into the back parlour, and we put him into a closet, where we locked him in, and it was so small, that he could not turn himself within. In this situation we kept him half an hour; Baddeley and I laughing till our sides ached. When we thought we had confined him long enough; the outer door was shut to hard, as if his Lordship was gone, and we let his Excellency out, who said, he was happy to be hid in any place, but that the cupboard was so small, that he could not stir one way or the other. I asked him what reason he had for hiding himself at all; that we were not accustomed to such doings, nor should I have consented to it, but to see how far his alarm would carry

him. That no gentleman, who honour-
 ed Mrs. Baddeley with his visits, was
 ashamed to be seen with her. Indeed,
 they are happy to be with her, and
 would be much oftener than they are, if
 she was not denied to them. "If you will
 give me leave, Sir," said I, "to pass my
 conjectures on your conduct, without
 offence, I would tell you, Sir, that
 either you live with some favourite
 lady, whom you are fearful may hear
 of your frequent visits here; or, you
 are like those, who might wish to be
 shut up, that while such and such are
 present, you was secreted, to lead
 them to think you are indulged with
 favours never bestowed; but, that
 this closet affair may lose it's ef-
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"fect, please to take notice, Sir, that
 "no one was here; that, as you wish-
 "ed to be hid, I did not oppose it for
 "the laugh's sake; and as it was done
 "by your own request, you must par-
 "don the frolick." "And so then,"
 replied he, "Mrs. Baddeley and you
 "have been diverting yourselves at my
 "expence? Well, I give you credit
 "for the thought, and depend on it,
 "one time or other, it shall not go un-
 "rewarded.—Why did not you keep
 "me there longer? I should not have
 "been angry, and believe me, what-
 "ever you may think, I am not the
 "man who would betray the confidence
 "a lady might repose in me." In
 short, though I perceived him a little
 hurt,

hurt, he carried it off with great good humour, and politely took his leave. This was high glee to Mrs. Baddeley, who, for a long time after, would occasionally play the part of the Neapolitan ambassador, and hide herself in the closet. We had scarce got out of this mirth, before Lord Melbourne came, to take his leave. We told him what had passed, and he laughed heartily, and when he went, said, "Be sure, Steele, keep off all the d—ned dogs till my return, and put the ambassador under lock and key."

"Now," said Mrs. Baddeley, "he is gone for eight days, and not a word about money: well, I must be

"contented

"contented till I see his will, which I
 "hope will not be long first. Next,
 "for our journey to Henley, and a fight
 "of Mr. Gill, though, between you
 "and I, Steele, (laughing) I do not
 "think so much of him as I did." "It
 "is well," replied I, "that you do not,
 "for you may yet be disappointed;
 "and, as this is the case, we may as
 "well defer our journey." No," re-
 "turned she, "not for worlds; I would
 "not miss the opportunity of seeing the
 "dear creature on any account, for
 "have him I will, as soon as my debts
 "are paid; and I will be candid, and
 "tell him the true cause why it is so
 "likely to be deferred."

This

This night we were for the opera, but presently came a person, who asked to see Mrs. Baddeley, and whose name was Le Duc, and whom we recollected to be the King's Taylor, at Paris, of whom we purchased the trimmings. He had, he said, something of consequence to impart, and of course was admitted. He was dressed like a nobleman; and, on being requested to sit down, did not immediately seat himself, as an English taylor would have done, but politely declined, saying, the honour was too great for men in his situation to think of. She insisted on his sitting, and asked him, what fashions he had brought with him; he said, he had brought none with him, at present, but was going back

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back to Paris immediately, and should return in a fortnight, and bring plenty with him; but, that his business was now of another nature, which he hoped Mrs. Baddeley would pardon him, if it did not meet with her approbation. "This lady, I presume," said he, addressing himself to Mrs. Baddeley, and alluding to me, "is your friend?"—On her saying, I was, and all he had to say, might be said before me, he continued, "His Majesty of France, Madam, has a great desire to see you; and, I am commissioned, to propose your coming over to Paris, with the utmost expedition, where he will provide for you for life, in a state becoming a lady under his protection; and,

“ and, if you think proper to comply
“ with this request of his, and agree to
“ set off for Paris in a day or two, I
“ have orders to let you have any sum
“ of money you want, and to deliver
“ you a letter. In this case, I can take
“ upon me to say, you will be a happy
“ lady; for he is a good king, and the
“ best of friends, where his fancy
“ leads.” Mrs. Baddeley, replied,
“ His Majesty of France might have
“ spared himself this trouble, and I can
“ give him my answer immediately, if
“ you are commissioned to carry it.”
He said he was. “ Then, please Sir,
“ make my respectful compliments to
“ his Majesty of France, and tell him,
“ I thank him for the honour of his in-
“ vitation,

"vitation, but as I have seen enough
 "of his country, and am sufficiently
 "satisfied with my own, I shall not
 "think of leaving it." On this, she
 rose from her seat, and left him, with
 "Good morning to you, Mr. Le Duc—
 "When you come to England again, to
 "convince you I am not offended with
 "you, for acting in obedience to your
 "orders, if you bring with you any
 "fashions I may like, I will be a cus-
 "tomer." He then said to me, "What
 "a pity it is that Mrs. Baddeley should
 "stand so much in her own light, and
 "be so blind to her interest;" for she
 would be as great in Paris, as the
 Queen herself, and hoped she would
 alter her opinion; that he had unlimited
 orders,

orders, to give her every thing she asked; that, he was unwilling to go back with such an answer, but that he was restricted to a day, and must return. When he was gone, she asked me what I thought of it; "Indeed," returned I, "I know not what to think, I am so surprized." "The duce take me," said she, "if I would live in France to be Queen of it; I hate the French, and would rather be a menial servant in England, than the French King's mistress. Let him go back, and tell his Royal Master what I said. But only think of it. — When we saw him dine in public, I observed that he looked much at me, but little supposed he noticed me so much as

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“to send after me, and now it is full a
“year since! Well, I need not de-
“spair of friends I find, when I make
“them, go where I will!” She was
not a little vain, however, of this invi-
tation, and did not omit to tell it to all
her acquaintance.

We went to the opera, and drank
tea in our own box, when the late Lord
Harrington came and begged a seat in
one corner, to impart something to Mrs.
Baddeley, of importance; this was to
say how much he admired her, and how
wretched he was, not to be noticed by
her. Her reply was, that he certainly
was a little out of his mind. He assur-
ed her he was very much so. “Then,”
returned she, “it is dangerous sitting so

"near you." "No," said he, "the
 "nearer I sit to you, the sooner I shall
 "be cured." "Come then," said Mrs.
 Baddeley, "sit forward, close by me,
 "and then your lady will see you, and
 "when you go home, will give you
 "a trimming, for you certainly deserve
 "it." It was with difficulty she could
 get him away, and when he was gone,
 we had all the foreign ministers, one
 after the other, and many other noble-
 men. When the opera was over, Mrs.
 Baddeley was handed to her carriage by
 the Duke of Manchester, and I, by Lord
 Clanbrazil, who, whispered to me, that
 he wished to see Mrs. Baddeley, to tell
 her something of her Gaby. In our way
 home, the coach ran foul of a broad-
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wheeled waggon with eight horses, and was overturned; but we received no hurt; only it occasioned a stoppage of carriages, and it being presently known whose carriage it was that was overset, it was not a little flattering, to find a crowd of nobility on foot, surrounding us, and kindly enquiring how we were. We were handed into the first coach that came up, by some gentlemen who politely set us down at home. Our carriage was much damaged; and our knocker went till near two in the morning, with enquiries respecting us.

Next morning we got into the phaeton, and set off for Henley; we stopped at Salt-hill, and saying to Mrs. Partridge,

at the Wind-mill, we should be back there the Saturday following, went on to my house near Henley, where Mr. Gill met us. He was elegantly dressed, and it did not escape Mrs. Baddeley's notice. Poor man, his joy was so great that he could neither eat nor drink. After dinner we walked into Kingwood, about three-quarters of a mile distant, to see the Gypsies, of which there were upwards of a hundred differently employed; some cooking, others washing, others at dinner, &c. They wished to tell our fortunes, but we declined; however, we gave them ten shillings among us, and got their blessing.

and for Henley; we lodged
at the Wind-mill, and leaving Mr. Gill

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Mr. Gill was very eager to know what steps Mrs. Baddeley had taken, respecting her divorce, and whether she had procured any advice; she told him every thing she had done, and the doubts Mr. Dunning had upon the occasion; "But," said she, "there is another bar, that was a divorce to take place immediately, would interrupt a marriage for the present." She was near three thousand pounds in debt, and till that was discharged, she would give her hand to no one; for the incumbrance of herself was quite sufficient, without adding to it that of her debts. He, with all the ardour of a lover, begged her not to think of her debts, for he would prefer a jail with her, rather than a

palace without her. "This" continued he, "shall not retard the business a day. "Had I it in my power, I would discharge them instantly; but that will never be, whilst my father lives. "However, when your creditors know it will be one day in my power to pay them, I should suppose they would wait that day with patience." She thanked him, but said, by the time a divorce could take place, she should be able to pay them herself; he must therefore rest himself satisfied for the present. He seemed to acquiesce in all she said; but begged leave to extort from her a promise never to give her hand to any other person, but to marry him, as soon as she was at liberty. This she solemnly

ly

ly promised, and he was as happy as he could be.

We stayed till the Saturday, and then set off for London; and, on calling at Salt-hill, we found Mr. Damer, whom Mrs. Partridge had acquainted of our designing to be there. With him we dined; but after dinner, Mrs. Baddeley being taken ill, with her old complaint, a sick head-ach, he politely offered her the use of his carriage; saying, he would ride in the phaeton. She told him the horses were rather ungovernable, and as no one could drive them so well as me, it would be better for him, and her to ride in the chaise, and Mrs. Steele might drive along side of it. This was settled, and

and thus we came to London. Mr. Damer so pleaded his cause with her, in this tête-a-tête, that she noticed him afterwards more than she had done before. On our return, we found letters from Lord Melbourne, and Lord Falmouth; with a card from Baron Diede, to dine with him as that day; and one from Mr. Stanley, inviting himself to tea. The Maid told us that among the numbers that had called, and left their names, was a Mr. Scott, a silk-mercator, for five hundred pounds, which Mrs. Baddeley owed him; and which he was very angry about, and said he should call no more. Mrs. Baddeley said, she owed no such sum for silks, nor did she recollect the name of

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Scott; and seemed a little uneasy. The girl replied, she was certain she was right; for that he talked with her a good while on the subject, and asked her, whether she did not think it wrong, that he should be obliged to come so often after his money. "Why," said Mrs. Baddeley, "Did you ever see him before?" "O yes, ma'am," returned the girl, 'I have seen the man often here, he came the day that Sally first came; and if you remember took up the cat, and said he would burn it.' "O Goodness," said I, "I now know who it is; it is no other than Damer, in one of his funny moods.—" "Did he write his name on the slate?" "Yes," replied the girl, and fetched it,

it, and as soon as we saw it, we knew his hand-writing. "I am glad" said Mrs. Baddeley, "it is no worse, for I began
" to be frightened."

We supped alone this evening, and Mrs. Baddeley, though she was relieved from the head-ach, was very low spirited; she cried and hung round my neck, and begged me to swear I would never part with her, if death did not oblige me. As I had given her no cause for this uneasiness, I wondered the more at it; and told her, I had no design to leave her. "If you do," said she, "I
" shall be lost for ever, and shall, like
" Jane Shore, come to your house and
" beg my bread of you." I intreated
her

her to tell me the occasion of this uneasiness; for that she distressed me exceedingly.—“When you was from me
 “in the phaeton,” said she, “I thought
 “my heart would have broke; I looked
 “at you often, and thought I was with-
 “out all I valued upon earth; and a
 “thousand foolish thoughts came into
 “my head; that some reasons might
 “in a little time take you from me;
 “and then I should be an out-cast, and
 “miserable.” I took this opportunity
 to reason with her, and assured her if
 she would be her own friend, and never
 give me cause, I never would leave her,
 whilst either she or I lived. That I
 had suffered, in my mind, a great deal
 on her account; but, that as I loved her

as my sister, I should never think of living from her, if her misconduct did not force me; for let her situation be what it would, nothing should drive me from her, but her imprudence. She thanked me a thousand times, and said, it should be the study of her life to please me, and to make me happy. This quieted her, and I persuaded her to go to bed.

The next morning she was in better spirits; and an anecdote or two, told her by her hair-dresser, made her laugh exceedingly. Among others, he told us that Mrs. Barry, of Drury-lane Theatre, was very ill; but that he had seen her three days before beat her hair-dresser,

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dresser, kick him down stairs, and tumble him from the top to the bottom; and on being asked for what reason, replied, only for catching hold of her ear, in a hurry with the hot pinching irons, instead of her curl, and that the man avowed he'd dress her no more, for he was afraid of her. "Where did this happen?" said I. At the theatre, he replied, and as he was coming out of Mrs. Abington's room, he was an eye witness to it. But scandal is the life of the green-room, and this story, I have no doubt, was food to the dealers in it for a month. Before my hair was dressed, came old Lord Harrington, and as Mrs. Baddeley declared she would not see him, but in my company, I was forced to put on a morn-

ing cap, and go down with her. He told her, it was an age since he saw her at the Opera, and was happy he was not disappointed in having it in his power to offer her any service she might stand in need of. She thanked him, and said, at present she was not in need of any. He then proceeded to declare she was, in his opinion, the finest woman he ever beheld; wished his fortune would enable him to lay thousands at her feet; and, if she would permit him to pay his respects to her, once a week, she might command his purse; and, as a proof of his intentions, if she would accept of those three hundred pounds, (holding up bank-notes to the amount), it was much at her service.

“ My

"My Lord," returned she, "I perfectly understand you; and the terms on which you offer your bounty, are such, that I can no way accept it; even if I wanted money, which in fact I do not; and I must beg the favour you will never offend my ears again, with a repetition of the same kind."

He then began to explain away his words, by saying, he had advanced nothing that might give any lady offence. He only wished, by permission, to call on her once a week; it being his greatest delight to set with an agreeable woman like her; and hear her sing, and pass away a few hours in conversation; that he meant nothing indelicate; that he was not a boy, nor like the gay world

in dissipation; that he was fond of pleasing society; and was obliged to seek for that abroad, which he could not meet with at home; that he was far from knowing what domestic happiness was; and therefore, coveted the company of a female friend, where he found one to his liking: that his fortune was not a splendid one, but that nevertheless, he had it in his power to take care of any lady, who was not unwilling to repose a confidence in him; and, as these were his real sentiments, he did not see how they could give offence, his wish being only to visit her, on the score of friendship; and that on such days, as might be agreeable to herself; without interfering with any of her engagements.

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ments. Mrs. Baddeley replied, that admitting his visits were meant only in the light he was pleased to represent them, her connexions were such, that his frequent visits, might give cause of uneasiness, where she should be unhappy to do it. However, he wished her to turn it in her mind, and give him an answer some few days after. She promised this, and he put up his bank-notes, saying, he would do himself the honour to wait on her again, in the course of a week, to know the result of her determinations. His chair was called, and he left us.

He was no sooner gone, than my servant brought in word, that a gentleman

wanted to see Mrs. Baddeley. "Who
" he is," said the fellow, "I don't know,
" for he would not give me his name."
" Go then, and tell him," said I, "that
" unless he sends in his name, he can
" see neither of us; nor even then, un-
" less he is known to us." The ser-
vant delivered this message; and, on the
person's saying, he was not known to the
ladies by name; nor could he tell his
business but to Mrs. Baddeley; he told
him, he could not see her; at this he
grew warm, and threatened to cane my
servant for his insolence. Words arose,
and John got him out, and shut the
door in his face.

The

MRS. SOPHIA BADDELEY. 67

The person went away, and soon after sent the following letter.

"Honoured Madam,

"I was sent by a gentleman of fortune, to tell you how much he loved you.—I am his head servant; and did not deserve the impudence your man did shew me. I wait therefore for your speedy answer to this, that I may come and deliver my orders; and am, for my master,

"Your humble servant,

"Peter Fowler.

"Feathers Tavern.

"Bond-street."

To Mrs. Baddeley.

To

To this letter, Mrs. Baddeley said, there was no other answer than to tell the man, who wrote it, that he was an impudent fellow. This was delivered, and we heard no more of him. In the interim came Mr. William Fawcner; but Mrs. Baddeley not seeming so happy to see him as she used, he enquired the cause of it, and hoped he had not given offence; saying, her coolness made him exceedingly unhappy. He took hold of her hand, but she withdrew it. At this he exclaimed, "Good God, my dear Mrs. Baddeley! What have I done? How wretched you make me!" She told him, she should always be happy to see him, as the rest of her friends, and would not have him think

more

more of her than as an acquaintance; she had well considered the consequence of her own conduct, saw it was highly improper, and therefore determined, in future, to have no further intercourse with him, than as a friend; in which light she should ever consider him, and value him. He endeavoured to expostulate; but she would not hear. He told her, let her determinations be what they would, she would ever be dear to his remembrance; but, that it would lay him under the necessity of discontinuing his visits, as he could never bear up under the mortification the sight of her would occasion: for, it would renew the recollection of his past happiness; and, that recollection would make him wretched.

wretched. He could only therefore, with heart-felt sorrow, at his dismissal, return her ten thousand thanks, for the indulgences she had bestowed upon him. In short, as he had not power to say more, she must pardon his leaving her. With this he bowed, and went out of the house in a minute.

“ Well, now my dear Steele,” said she, “ you see I can keep my resolution. “ I did this, and will do more to convince you, how much I value you “ and your advice. Did not this come “ on you unexpectedly? Could you “ suppose I could do this to a man “ whom I own I loved; and to whom “ I was so attached, that I would have “ taken

“taken him for life? Many an hour
“have I been happy in his company,
“and the more so, as it was unknown
“to you. But that’s now over, as
“shall more of my imprudence shortly
“be.” I was happy at this, and told
her, it was in her own power yet, to
be one of the most comfortable wo-
men upon earth. “I believe so,”
returned she, “and I am resolved I’ll
“try for it.” I said, she might still
have an engagement at Drury-lane.
“No,” replied she, “I will never have
“any thing more to do with the stage,
“for it has been my destruction.” Dur-
ing this conversation, came Count Haf-
lang; we enquired kindly how he did,
and Mrs. Baddeley expressed much un-
happiness

happiness at the accident, that so long confined him. He begged no apology might be made, saying, the fault was his own; he had suffered a good deal, but was now pretty well recovered, and the sight of her so enlivened him, that he felt not the least pain any where, but in his heart. Mrs. Baddeley told him, he could not possibly feel any there; for he must certainly long since have bestowed it on some worthy object. On the contrary, he assured her it was undisposed of, till he saw her; and, that he must finally confess, he was so impressed with her beauty, that he could have no rest. "You are then," returned she, "just as I am, for I have
" but little rest myself." Is there then,

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said he, "some sprightly rival in my
 "way?" "Many," replied she, "but
 "men, now, are the least of my thoughts;
 "and, I intend to put up a paper at
 "my door, to acquaint all my friends,
 "that do me the honour to call on me;
 "that a prohibition is laid in the house
 "on the name of Love, or any thing
 "bordering on it." For she was not
 without the man of her heart, and to
 him alone all her favours were due.
 The old gentleman, still went on, that
 it might be presumption in him, at his
 time of life, to think of so beautiful a
 creature; but, that he was not without
 his feelings. She endeavoured to turn
 the conversation, by asking what news
 abroad? "None," said he, "of con-
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“sequence, but, that the men are
“all mad, like myself.” “If that be the
“case,” she replied, “I’ll see none of
“them; it is dangerous to be with
“them; and so, as I am going out, and
“must dress, I will wish you good
“morning.” With this she left him;
and, as I pleaded the same excuse, he
soon went away, saying, he should not
give up his wishes, whatever might be
his disappointments.—Count Haslang,
was upwards of seventy years of age;
and, to hear such an old fool talk of
love, was surfeiting. But the men, I
find are all alike, young and old, and
will pursue their inclinations, however
ridiculous it may appear; and, to their
illicit amours they will sacrifice the

“concupiscence”

name

name of love, and talk of affection, when they have not the least spark of it. Mrs. Baddeley, I will admit, was not blind to the follies of many, that paid court to her; and if, at times, she gave way to imprudence, the good-natured reader will, I trust, make some little allowance, when he has been told of her youth, her beauty, and personal accomplishments; and the great admiration she always had; enough, as I have before observed, to make any woman vain, of ten times the understanding, especially in an age of dissipation, when reserves are too much laid aside. It is an easy thing, for a woman to sit down and censure the conduct of Mrs. Baddeley; but, I will venture to say, not

one in ten, in her situation, could have withstood the temptations she met with. I do not advance this as an excuse for her errors; but, I would have my female readers to consider the many attractions she withstood, and the many temptations she avoided; how much her vanity was swelled, and her ambition heightened, by the homage and adoration paid her; and then condemn her, if they please. She was made like other mortals, of human materials; and, if she fell a sacrifice to vanity, let it be kindly attributed to the frailty of her sex. Many were the applications to Mrs. Baddeley for her favours, even from men in second life, who made her offers that would have tended to the ruin of themselves

themselves and families, but she listened to none of them; and, was I to relate the whole, it would fill a dozen volumes, and answer no purpose, but to make families unhappy. I have not mentioned any, but those who are generally known, nor do I mean it; such will pass unobserved, and unnoticed, nor shall my pen disturb their peaceful moments. I will advert then to Lord Falmouth, who came to try the effect of gold, and see whether it had more influence than persuasion. Mrs. Baddeley admitted him, and a repetition of his former declarations took place, which she told him, as she had done before, were disagreeable to her. He then took out of his coat pocket a large purse,

full of gold; said, it contained five hundred guineas, and was at her service, and more if she would accept it; that, he presented her that trifle to purchase something for his sake; and which, to my great surprize, and the first time I ever saw her accept a favour from a person to whom she had not bestowed a one; I say, to my great surprize, she took up the purse, put it into her pocket, thanked him, and said, she should not fail to lay out the contents as he desired. His Lordship told her, she was welcome to it, and as much more, if she would do him the favour to accept it. "No, my Lord," returned she, "the present you have made me, is more than I expected, nor would I have

" taken

"taken it, but with an intent to purchase something in memory of so good a friend." "You must not," said he, "call me by that cool name, for I absolutely love you." She hoped he did, and wished all the world would, as she would never do any thing to incur their hatred. She was in high spirits, and he begged her to be a little serious; but she told him, it was one of her mirthful days, and her friends would be happy to find it, for she was going out to dinner. On this he took his leave, begging she would fix a day when he might have the honour of calling on her again. Mrs. Baddeley said, whenever it was agreeable to him. He then bowed and left her.

She

She was quite overjoyed with this five
 hundred guineas, and said, "This time
 "I think I have acted right; for I am
 "so tormented with these old gentle-
 "men, that I am determined to take
 "all they will give me, by way of re-
 "compence, but never meet their
 "wishes otherwise than by thanking
 "them. Here, take the purse, Steele,
 "and pay away the contents to whom
 "you please, or keep it in part of what
 "I owe you." I told her, my account
 with her should be the last thought of,
 and that we would consider the best use
 to apply it to. "To prevent being
 "troubled with Lord Falmouth's visits
 "in future," said Mrs. Baddeley, "I will
 "give orders to be denied; nor will I

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“ see old Count Haslang, for I hate
 “ him monstrously; he always looks as
 “ if he had a stake run down his back.”

The servant had his orders; for, since
 dining out was an excuse, we meant to
 spend the day alone. Lord Winchelsea
 and Mr. Storer called, and we were
 denied to both; but, in the evening,
 we saw a Mr. P. who tendered us his
 services, said, he had a quantity of
 French wines, very fine and good, which
 he had run, and could afford to sell at
 half the price we paid for them at pre-
 sent. He was clever and sensible, and
 seemed not only the man of business,
 but the gentleman. This man was a
 surveyor as well as a merchant, and em-
 ployed a relation of mine, who was
 under

under many obligations to him. Mrs. Baddeley told him, she would be a customer to him, gave him an order, and told him to send in such as he could recommend; for, as some of the nobility did her the honour occasionally to dine with her, it might be a recommendation to him. I do not conceal this person's name from motives of delicacy, but from policy, as he will appear in a very different light hereafter; he was a man little known to the world, and as such, his name is of little consequence.

A man, whom we had employed to build a wash-house for us, having charged us forty-eight pounds, when he

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agreed to do the job for twenty pounds, we told Mr. P. of it. He said, those kind of people generally imposed upon ladies; but, if we would give him the bill, and authorise him to settle it, we should have justice done us; "And, as I do not want for money," continued he, "and have some at your command to pay this man, or twenty such, I will do it with pleasure." We thanked him, and he staid tea and supper. Mrs. Baddeley, whose great fault was that of being too communicative, made this man acquainted with her situation as to debts, and he very officiously told her, in a friendly way, that he had some thousands in his banker's hands, and he would settle the whole,

whole, and she might repay him in such sums as she could conveniently spare; for he should be happy to be of service to us. Mrs. Baddeley then desired me to show Mr. P. the list of what she owed; I did, and his answer was, "I beg you will not think of paying one shilling of these debts yourself, but refer them to me, and I will settle with them all." She told him, she was obliged to him; and, as a proof how much she wished to convince him, that she would let him have the money as fast as she could spare it, she begged of me to give him the five hundred guineas in the house. He declined taking it, but she insisted so much on it, that he could not refuse it. He then

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took out his pocket-book, and gave her some cheques of Mr. Coutts, the banker, and bad her draw, when she wanted cash, and he would take care she should be supplied; and, the next day, he would set about settling her affairs, and he hoped to her satisfaction; as he thought he should be able to save her many pounds, and not lessen us in their opinion, but keep us our consequence. I was not a little pleased with this, as tradesmen are apt to take advantages of women, be they ever so clever, or ever so much upon their guard. This was ever my opinion, and I am still more confirmed in it, since I have read a work, put into my hands, which I had occasional recourse to, by

way of relief, whilst I was writing these memoirs; and, in justice to the merits of that work, I will own, that had it been published years ago, and fallen into my hands, it would have saved me hundreds of pounds. The reader, perhaps, will not be displeased with me, if I tell him the name of this book. It is called *Modern Times*; or, the *Adventures of Gabriel Outcast*, and is a novel in three volumes, written in imitation of *Gil Blas*. As the title announces, that it has been considerably improved, and enlarged, since it was first published, it may not be unnecessary to say, that what I read was it's third edition, and laughed through it, from one end to the other. The author, whoever he is, must

be a man of infinite humour and ingenuity, and have a thorough knowledge of life; as, under a well-told train of adventures, he sets before his readers the arts, deceptions, and villainies of the world, in all professions; and thus instructs, whilst he entertains; and a perusal of it will be useful to hundreds, who may never through life, see, or know, half they will learn in these volumes. But to return.

Putting a mark on those bills, which I wished should be first paid, I gave Mr. P. the list of her debts, and also the bills for repairing and improving Hammer-smith house, which he said was a great imposition, and he would see us

righted. Mrs. Baddeley and I, gave Mr. P. full power to act for us; and he, the next day, paid more than the five hundred guineas he received, for he brought receipts to the amount of six hundred and sixty pounds; and made the man, who charged forty-eight pounds, take thirty pounds, and brought us his receipt in full. This gave us great pleasure, as the man told me, he would not abate a single shilling of his demand.

Mr. P. was now much in our esteem; for he seemed highly to deserve it, and frequently sent us valuable little presents; and, once a day, called regularly to see what we wanted, and how he could serve us. All we drew on Mr.

Couts

Couts for, was punctually paid, though we did not draw for much. Mrs. Bardeley made him a confidant in all her affairs; told him that she was obliged to Lord Melbourne for what she had, and enumerated what he had done for her, and what expectations she had from him, and how much she was in my debt. In short, as she kept no secret from him, he had reason to believe he should be repaid all he advanced, and being of a friendly turn, was as happy, in appearance, in doing us this kindness, as we could be to receive it. We will now leave him, for the present; what I have said being necessary for the illucidation of what happened afterwards.

Going through Hyde-park, in our way to Hammer-smith, we met with Mr. Stanley, who, saying he had lamed his horse, and sent him home by his servant, and wished we would give him a cast to Kensington, we took him into the coach; when he said a thousand civil things to Mrs. Baddeley, and fell on his knees to her, as men will do, to obtain what they want. She told him, that conduct might have it's effect with girls under twenty, but not with her; and begged him to rise, and not tease her in a manner so disagreeable to her; but, nothing could prevent him, and he continued his nonsense till we reached Kensington gate, where we sat him down.

On

On our arrival, at our house at Hammer-smith, we were told, a man had called to speak with Mrs. Baddeley; that his name was Freelove, and his business information for her good; that, he lived at Chiswick, and if she wished to see him, he would wait on her on being sent for. This odd message excited our curiosity, and we sent for him. When he came, he begged the door might be shut, as his business was not to be known by servants. The door being shut, he told Mrs. Baddeley, that he had a brother, who lived in Berkeley-street, Piccadilly, and, who kept a house there for the reception of the nobility; and, who had been after her many times, at the desire of a noble duke,

duke, who had offers to make her, which he presumed she would not refuse; "But, madam," said he, "as I am unacquainted with such business, I must leave it to you to act as you please. This is my information, and if you wish to have it, I can tell you the duke's name." "No," said Mrs. Baddeley, "I do not wish to hear it." "O, pray let us have his name;" said I. "Who is the duke?" "No less a man," replied he, "than the Duke of Devonshire." "Now," said Mrs. Baddeley, "I am acquainted with the business; I wish you had kept your information to yourself, for I shall neither see your brother, nor his Grace." The man replied, he did this

this to serve her, and since he found it had offended her, he should be off; accordingly he tripped away without further ceremony, or even shutting the door after him.

Mrs. Baddeley was so displeased, at the manner in which his Grace sent to her, and the person he employed in the business, that she was half-inclined to write to him and affront him; but, as I told her he was a foolish young man, and the best way would be to take no notice of it, she gave it up, with saying, she would only give him some of her contemptuous looks when next she met him in public. Mrs. Baddeley was possessed of a handsome pair of pistols, these

these were at Hammer-smith, and she proposed taking them home as a present to Mr. P. and asked her servant if they were charged, he told her not; and, in our way home, she having one, and I the other, began to trifle with each other; she said, she would shoot me; and I told her I would do the same, and we presented the pistols at each other, and should probably have done one another a mischief, if an accident had not prevented it. Turning out of the great road, in order to pay my sister a visit, who lived in the King's Road, Chelsea; three ill-looking fellows came up, and two of them ordered the coachman to stop; I put out the pistol, and told one of the men, if he came near the coach,

coach, he was a dead man; and, putting my finger accidentally to the trigger, the pistol went off, and frightened the horses so much, that they galloped away, and it was some time before the coachman could stop them. It saved us from being robbed, but frightened me and Mrs. Baddeley so much, that we were not ourselves for some time; and the more so, when we recollected, we had presented them at each other, and it was a providence they did not go off then; for, had I pulled the trigger then, I should certainly have killed her, and, had I done it, I never could have survived her. It has been a warning to me, and ever will, not to handle firearms again.

We

We stopped at my sister's; she said Lord Grosvenor had called on her the day before, and kindly asked after us; said, he had been to the school where his children were at, and gave orders that Lady Grosvenor might not see them. This she said was an act of cruelty in him, as the children were her's; and, that having given these orders before, Lady Grosvenor, with all the affection of a parent, had dressed herself like a servant, and absolutely hired herself in that capacity, to the mistress of the school, in order to get a sight of them. She said, she did not know the truth of this, but, that it was the common report of that neighbourhood. Lord Grosvenor, the next morn-

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ing, called on us, but did not see Mrs. Baddeley; he honestly confessed to me, that he thought her a fine woman, but did not see that beauty in her, wherein others thought so much of. His visits at our house were but few, but, they were friendly. It was from him we had always tickets for the masked balls, and Mrs. Baddeley never thought of applying any where else.

As Mr. P. will cut no small figure in this work, I must not omit to make my readers acquainted with his merits, as I go on. He called himself Mrs. Baddeley's agent; looked over the bills for repairing Hammer-smith house, being a surveyor by profession, curtailed them

all, and settled them, as he did every other debt she owed; by paying some in full, others in part; and, giving others his notes, payable at a distant time, for his paper would pass like bank-notes. By this kindness, I was much relieved from a heavy charge; and, though I was as keen as I could be, I found by Mr. P. that I was not adequate to the task I undertook; for he made them make considerable abatements in all their bills: so that for a length of time after this, I never paid five pounds, but referred them all to him. He kept a regular book, and produced proper vouchers, for all he paid and received; and, frequently offered to pay her bills, when he had not cash of her's. Thus was he

he a useful friend, and saved her many pounds; I may say hundreds. I had now some little money by me, and his hinting one day, that he had a draft payable the next, and was not quite prepared for it, I told him, I had four hundred pounds of my own money, then in the house, and the loan of it was much at his service; at least, he might take it as money of Mrs. Baddeley's, and apply it for her use, as he thought proper. He thanked me, took it, and gave me his receipt for the same.

At a masked ball, at Mrs. Cornelly's, in Soho-square, for which Lord Grosvenor sent us tickets; and, whilst he was with us, unmasked; a well-dressed cham-

ber-maid, with a broom and dust-shovel, in true character, came up often, and swept round us; she struck Lord Grosvenor so much, that he was desirous of finding out who she was; having told him, in a tone of voice not her own, that he knew her, he followed her about, but could not learn who she was. When he returned to us, she came up again, begged pardon for being so troublesome; but, seeing so much dirt about us, her lady would discharge her, if she did not clear it away. "Well, young woman," said his Lordship, "shall I have a few minutes chat with you?"—"Yes, Sir," she replied, "if you please."—Off went Lord Grosvenor again, with this mask, to find out, if possible, who she

she was; he staid the best part of an hour with her, and returned, saying, he could not for his life find her out; but, he was certain, she was some woman of fashion, for she knew a good deal of him. Mrs. Baddeley advised him to go again to her. Away he went, and a gentleman, whom we found afterwards to be Lord Pembroke, presently came and told us, that Lord Grosvenor was tête-a-tête with his own wife, and did not know it; for, that the chambermaid was no other than Lady Grosvenor. This was buzzed round the room, and his Lordship was pointed at by a number of his friends. Mr. Damer, said, it was a pity, and he would go and tell him; as the eye of every one

was upon him. He went up to him, and whispered him in his ear, that he was talking to his Lady; his Lordship having sat down by her, and being then in warm conversation with her. Informed of this, he jumped up instantly, and came to us in great agitation, saying, he would rather have given a thousand guineas, than such a thing should have happened; but, that she disguised her voice so much, and played her part so well, that he had not the least conception who she was. We took the opportunity to beg he would be reconciled to her; for, that many ladies had been guilty of more imprudence than her, and, yet it had been over-looked. His Lordship swore he never would.

Lady

Lady Grosvenor did not give up her pursuit of him; for she followed him all the night, and often said to me, "Pray persuade that gentleman to look on me; I wish him to be friends with me;" but he did all in his power to avoid her; and, finding he could not, begged of us to go home sooner than we intended; for his Lordship was in our party. Lady Grosvenor followed us out of the house, and said to me, in my ear, "I wish I was in your place;" I replied, I wished she was; then, taking me by the hand, she said, "God bless you;" and continued with us, till we were all in the carriage. True, said I to myself, as soon as we parted; poor creature, I wish with all my heart she

she had been with us, and partook of some of his Lordship's smiles; and happy should I have been, had I been able to prevail in her favour; but his anger and resentment was such, that he would not hear a word we had to say.

A Captain Crawford, of the Guards, an intimate friend of Captain Fawcner, and a polite handsome young man, whom indeed we had seen before; came to pay Mrs. Baddeley a visit, having heard, I presume, of what had passed between her and Captain Fawcner. Though, when I say *handsome*, I do not mean to say that Mrs. Baddeley never bestowed her attention or favours voluntarily, but to handsome men. The pleasure

she

she took in the company of Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Hare, and Lord George Gordon, is a proof to the contrary; for to these gentlemen, she was particularly civil, and when they omitted to call upon her for some time, has taken pains to see them; by going to public places on purpose. Captain Crawford asked her when she had seen Captain Fawcner, but said no more respecting him, his business being to introduce himself to her favour; and he used all the language, and those fond arguments which men in love use to captivate their mistresses. She sat silent till he had done, and then, thus addressed him. "I presume, sir, you have been instructed by your friend, how to proceed with me; for

“ for the language you have adopted,
“ as that of Captain Fawkner’s, and
“ calls for the same answer.” “ Far be
“ it from me, madam,” replied he, “ to
“ use any man’s language but my own.
“ I have not lived till this time, to need
“ instructions to convey my real senti-
“ ments. The heart naturally speaks
“ for itself.—Till now I have been con-
“ tented in my situation; but, since I
“ have beheld your lovely person, and
“ your charms, I have wished myself a
“ monarch for your sake.” “ And,
“ I doubt not,” said Mrs. Baddeley,
laughing, “ for your own.” He told
her it was no laughing matter, for his
feelings would not admit of trifling.
“ Certainly not,” said she, “ I do not
“ mean

“ mean to trifle with them, but to tell
 “ you seriously what I think. I have
 “ let you run on,” (for he had said a
 thousand fulsome things to her, before
 she interrupted him,) “ to see how far
 “ your folly would carry you. Can you
 “ suppose, sir, that I will attend to an
 “ idle tale which you tell to every wo-
 “ man you meet? And do you think me
 “ fool enough to give my company to
 “ every one who may please to compli-
 “ ment me as *you* have done? If you
 “ think so, you think wrong. As Mr.
 “ Fawkner’s friend, I shall be glad to
 “ see you at any time; but, to talk to
 “ me in the manner you have now, I
 “ shall ever consider as impertinent.
 “ Talk not therefore of trifling; I give
 “ you

“ you my honour, you never shall be
 “ trifled with by me; for, I will always
 “ speak my mind to you, as I have at
 “ present.” He seemed much hurt, and
 asked her, if she took a pleasure in ridi-
 culing her admirers? “ Yes,” she re-
 plied, “ when my admirers act with im-
 propriety, as you have done; for
 though I acknowledge my impru-
 dence, in some respects; I have always
 conducted myself so, in the company
 of those with whom I am acquainted,
 as not to warrant such unbecoming be-
 haviour from any gentleman. I am
 like many others of my sex, not without
 my attachment, and where my faith
 is pledged; and therefore I expect;
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"will never trouble me on this head again." He begged her pardon, for any thing that might escape him, to give offence; yet, let her be as angry as she would, he must and would love her through life; but, if possible, he would obey her commands; and not offend again in the same way, though the task would be difficult. He hoped therefore, she would class him among her friends, and permit him occasionally to pay his respects to her. She replied, she should be happy to see him, as she did her other friends, when they were pleased to honour her with their occasional visits.

When Captain Crawford left her, she told me, she was certain Mr. Fawkner had set him on, to see if he could prevail with her, to listen to entreaties of a similar nature with his own; so that he might report the reception he met with, which she supposed he was gone to do. "I begin now," added she, "to be sorry for what I said to, and promised, Mr. Gill; for such is my disposition, that, like a child, I am fond of new faces, and soon tired of them. The young gentleman, I believe, loves me to adoration, but I will not be his wife notwithstanding; nor will I be the wife of any man; for I can never submit to the controul of a husband, or put it in his power to say I have
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" been imprudent in life. I value and
 " esteem Mr. Gill; but I am resolved
 " not to marry him. I know, my dear
 " Steele, you will call me whimsical and
 " capricious; I own I am so, and would
 " have married him, when first I saw
 " him, had I been at liberty: but my
 " mind is now totally altered, and I
 " shall think no more of it. You see
 " what a changeling I am." " Yes,"
 returned I, " I see it well enough, and
 " knew it would come to this; how-
 " ever, I am not sorry for it. It may
 " be a wise determination, and the bet-
 " ter, as it takes place without my ad-
 " vice." " If," replied she, " I could
 " give my hand for life to any man, I
 " would to him; for I love and esteem

“ him more than any man on earth; I
“ shall therefore break with him by de-
“ grees, as I would not hurt him.”

Lord Melbourne came this evening, and whilst he was with us, came Sir Francis Molineux, Usher of the Black Rod, who sat an hour with me, and was sorry he found Mrs. Baddeley engaged. This gentleman had no sooner left us, than the house was disturbed, by a noise below, among the servants. One of the maids, having opened the two pair of stairs window, and threw out one of the cats, whom she found lying upon her cap, the footman, knowing how fond his mistress was of cats, quarrelled with her, and put her all along upon the
kitchen

kitchen fire. The girl was not much hurt, except burning of her cloaths, but she was frightened into such strong fits, that it required three to hold her; and I was obliged to send for the apothecary, to get her out of them. It was at last effected, but they returned, and continued with her near three hours. Had Mrs. Baddeley known it, she would have discharged the maid; but, as I thought the man was equally, if not more cruel, I advised them to be friends, and the quarrel was made up. His Lordship staid till one in the morning, and then went away.

When he was gone, Mrs. Baddeley told me, she had such things to acquaint

me with, as would surprise me; that his Lordship had said, he had laid out such large sums of money, upon his house and other things, that he found himself pinched; for though his fortune was large, his ready money was nearly exhausted; of course, he should not be able to advance her money, to discharge her debts for some little time; but, that he would take particular care, she should have plenty for her immediate occasions; and that shortly, he would not only pay all she owed, but would discharge her debt to me too. I asked her why she had not told him of Mr. P; she replied, she had, and that his Lordship was well pleased with it; and said, it happened fortunately, as it would

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keep things to rights, till such time as he could do as he wished; and said, the next time he came, he would bring her some money. She said, his Lordship told her, that since he came of age, he had expended upwards of two hundred thousand pounds in neat cash.

I replied, "Then you must be frugal, and live within bounds, and all will be well; for, I suppose his Lordship will take care, in a little time, to disincumber you." She said, she had no doubt of it, and would follow my advice.

There was scarce a day passed, but something new occurred. This morning

ing came three men to the door, that played on different instruments. One of them was a young man, about twenty years of age, who sung sweetly. Mrs. Baddeley was so struck with his figure, his voice, and manner, that she ordered them into the house, and had her servants give them something to eat; they were taken into the back-parlour, and fed; and afterwards Mrs. Baddeley went to them, and they continued playing and singing three hours; and every song the young man sung, drew from her fresh applause. When she meant to dismiss them, she asked me what she should give them; I told her three shillings would be enough, but if she thought not, she might give them five. She
said

said, five shillings, in her opinion, would not satisfy them; but, as I had no more silver, she took it, and gave it to the young man, who bowed gracefully, and said he was much obliged to her. As they were going away, the young man stopped to let his comrades go on, and when they were gone, he returned into the room, begged Mrs. Baddeley's pardon for the liberty; but said, the men were already paid, and as he was sufficiently rewarded by the honour of singing to her, he begged leave to return the five shillings she kindly gave him. Mrs. Baddeley refused to take it back, and he then gave it to her servant. We looked at the young man, with amazement, and did not know what to make of

of him; he seemed to have the manner of a gentleman; and, on leaving her, begged her permission to come again; she took his address, and, said he might depend on her sending for him, at some other time, but not on the same terms; for, unless he would permit her to pay him, she would not think of it: he bowed and went. Mrs. Baddeley was of opinion, he had been well educated, and being reduced, hired these men to go about with him; and, that he gave John the money, not thinking himself sufficiently paid for the time he was detained. John, our servant, said he was no street-finger; for, whilst he was at breakfast, he tied up his stockings, and he observed that he had fine silk garters, and

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white silk stockings, under his worsted ones; and, he was sure it was some frolick. I asked him why he did not mention this to us before; his answer was, he did not think of it. "Besides, madam," added John, "under his old waist-coat, he had a fine shirt, and 'twas as white as snow." These circumstances led us to send where he gave us the direction, in order to learn who he was; but, we were disappointed, for no such person lived in that place, nor did they ever hear of such a one. This confirmed John's suppositions, and we never heard any thing of him, till we went to a masked ball, at the Pantheon, some time after; where we found him in nearly the same dress he had on at
our

our house, and with the same instruments, on which he played; and sung many of the same songs we heard before. We took all the pains we could to find him out, but was not able, nor did we ever.

No sooner were these men gone, on the day I mentioned, but we had a morning visit from the Duke of Manchester, whom Mrs. Baddeley received; he called with a trifling favour which she asked him for, and staid but a short time. As the door was opened for the Duke of Manchester, Mr. John Hanger entered it, without ceremony, and came into the parlour where we were sitting; he said, he just run in, to ask

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Mrs. Baddeley how she did, and seated himself by her; and, on her making no answer, he enquired the reason. She looked angry at him, and said, she did not approve of such liberties, entering the house in the manner he did. "There was a time," replied he, "when I might do this without offence."—"Yes," returned she, "and pretty returns you made me." "My dear Baddeley," cried he, "upbraid me no more with my misconduct;—I cannot live, unless you love me."—"Love you?" returned she, "I once loved you, 'tis true, and to my sorrow; but I never will be that fool again." "How shall I make you amends," said he, "for what is past?"

“ Will you do it,” replied she, “ if I
“ tell you?” “ I will,” said he, “ if
“ it is in my power.”—“ Then, take
“ notice,” retorted she, rising from her
seat, with her heart full of resentment—
yet feeling a little of her old affection,
she paused, and said, “ I have a favour
“ to beg of you, which, by granting,
“ you will confer on me a lasting obli-
“ gation.” Be what it would, he assur-
ed her, he would grant it. “ How-
“ ever hard then my conditions may be
“ deemed,” returned she, “ they are,
“ that you will never come into any
“ house where I am, take notice of
“ me in public, or even write to me
“ again; I am now happily situated,
“ and have resolved never to receive
“ more

"more of your visits." "This sentence," said Mr. Hanger, "my dear Baddeley, is so severe, that I cannot comply with it. I will give up my life first; and, as to Lord Melbourne, d—m him, he had better mind his wife at home, than put himself in the way of my happiness; and, I am determined, one day or other, to make him answer to me for it."—"Don't talk so idly, young man," said Mrs. Baddeley, "you know not who is the cause of it; therefore, stifle your resentment, till you meet with the right person." "I would to God," said Mr. Hanger, "I knew who it was. Lord Melbourne I know is a constant visitor at this house."—I could

not hold my temper, or tongue any longer, and said, "What is it to you, Sir, who visits us? *Your* visits, I must tell you again, are exceedingly disagreeable; and, I must request you will come here no more." "It signifies little, Madam," said he to me, "what *you* say; for let Mrs. Baddeley be where she will; I must, and will see her, as I have often said, even at the risk of my life." "Pray, Sir," said Mrs. Baddeley, taking up the cause again, "let me have no rudeness to Mrs. Steele. She is the best friend I have, and affronting her, is affronting me. She has my interest too much at heart to see me the dupe of any man. I have had time for reflection,

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“flection, and your past conduct makes
“me shudder. Have you not often
“beat me in my bed, till my shoulders
“and arms have been black for a
“month? And did your cruelty end
“here? No; when I took the liberty
“to give you some advice, which you
“then stood much in need of; did you
“not——But I will not repeat it.—
“The more I think of it, the more I
“despise you!”—

This charge of her's I knew to be a fact; he has often beat her in such a manner, that I have seen his cruel marks, and have wept over them.— Many of her friends, now living, will testify the same; and, I would have

horse-whipped him for it, if she had not prevented me. He heard her out with patience; and, then told her, he acknowledged his ill behaviour, and was ready to atone for all his past faults, and, therefore, ought to be forgiven; that she was still dear to him; that, life without her, would be a burthen, and, that he should go distracted. I gave her a wink to go out of the room, which she did, saying, she must go and dress, being engaged to go out, "So, good morning to you."—She left him; he tried to bring her back, with all the endearing words he was master of, but, to no purpose; he then bit his nails, and walked about the room like one crazed: he would have talked, but, I
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leaving him with the same pretence, he thought proper to leave the house; saying, as he went, he should be with us again the next day. I went up to her, and found her in great agitation, crying out, she was miserable, and apprehensive, from his revengeful looks, that he would do her a mischief. She wished earnestly, that she had never seen him, for, that her health was not what it was before she swallowed the poison; and, that the fear of him disturbed her daily. She gave all her servants orders never to admit him, saying, she would discharge the first who did; and, they all promising to obey her directions, she grew more easy.

When

When Lord Melbourne came, which he did that evening, at eleven, saying, he had been at the play with his dear Betsy; (for he has often declared he scarce knew which he loved the best, his wife, or Mrs. Baddeley) I say, when his Lordship came, she told him, Mr. Hanger had been with her, and how she had treated him; for, she thought it best to mention it herself, lest he should hear it from some other quarter, and be displeased. Lord Melbourne acknowledged himself much obliged to her for this information, which put him at his ease; for, he assured her, Mr. Hanger had, one day at Almack's, told Lord Stanley, now Earl of Derby, in his hearing, that Mrs. Baddeley was as hand-

handsome as an angel; that, he had been at romps with her all the morning, and he was as happy as a prince. And when Mrs. Baddeley told him the orders she had given, not to admit him again, he gave her twenty kisses, and blessed her sweet face. He brought her no money, however, but said he would the next day.

She observed to me, when Lord Melbourne was gone, that Hanger had said this in his Lordship's hearing, to create uneasiness and words between him and her, and called him a villain for so doing; and, told me, she never should forget his wicked intentions. Dr. Arne now came in to give her a lesson, and he
was

was followed soon after by Mr. Damer, who was so pleased with Mrs. Baddeley's performances, that he thought proper to reward her master, by a handful of gold. Both he and Doctor Arne supped with us; and, the doctor liking the wine, Mrs. Baddeley ordered the seat of his carriage to be filled with it, unknown to him. Mr. Damer entertained us with the conversation he had with our maid, when we were in the country, under the name of Scott, the mercer; he told her, he had been a hundred times after his money, and pretended to be d—n'd angry; the girl begged his pardon for disbelieving him, and said, that her mistress never suffered a person to call twice, if she knew it; that,

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that she had lived with her two years, and never heard such a thing of her before. She said, if he called when the ladies were at home, he would have his money, (thumping her hand upon the table, with violence,) and it was as sure as the Bank of England; "For, thank God, we have no duns here." "In short," said he, "I had a long chat with the woman, and gave her a shilling at parting; as, she promised to stand my friend, and get me my money as soon as you came to town."

We were no sooner alone, than our servant, John, came into the parlour, and requested we would give him a patient hearing, and not be angry with him.

him. We bad him speak freely, and he began with saying, he was mightily in love with Mrs. Bridget, Madam's waiting-maid, meaning Mrs. Baddeley's; and, he never could be happy, unless he could have our consent to marry her, for she was the woman of his heart, and he could not live without her.

"And how do you propose," said Mrs. Baddeley, "to maintain her?" By his industry, he said, and her service.—

"What then," returned she, "you mean to continue with me?" "If you will give us leave, that is our design; and she shall wait on you as she does at present. I hope, therefore, you will consent to our marriage."—

"But I must first know," said Mrs. Baddeley,

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Baddeley, "whether she is disposed to
 "have you." He replied, she was, and
 if she would permit him, he would send
 her into the parlour. She was accord-
 ingly sent for; and, on being asked if
 she had any love for John, she answered
 in the affirmative. "Why, what a silly
 "wench you are;" said her mistress,
 "and do you wish to marry him?"
 She replied, yes; and should not be
 happy unless she did. "Well, then,"
 said Mrs. Baddeley, "you shall not
 "want my consent; and, if Mrs.
 "Steele will give you furniture for a
 "room, I will do all the rest, and give
 "you a wedding-dinner; so, you may
 "marry as soon as you please." She
 curtesied, and went away happy, to

acquaint John with what we had said. The wedding was soon solemnized. I gave them the complete furniture of one room; and, on the day of marriage, they and their fellow-servants had a good dinner, at our expence, uninterrupted; with as much wine, rum and brandy, as they could drink. She lived with us till she was ready to lie in, and then she left us. But she always found a friend in Mrs. Baddeley, who was liberal to a fault; for she was seldom well, and Mrs. Baddeley paid a great deal of money for physicians, apothecaries, and nurses, to attend her; but, like most low-bred people, her husband, from growing ungrateful, grew impertinent, and we got rid of him too.

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She now ordered the coach to go to her milliner's; and, though I went with her, to prevent any extravagance taking place; she found means to lay out thirty pounds for gauze and blonds; and, passing by Mr. King's, the mercer, would go in to see what new French silks he had; he produced many; and, on her saying she could not afford to buy any, he said he would make her a present of what she wished; or, he would give her seven years credit; for, Mrs. Baddeley was a favourite of his, and he no less so of Mrs. Baddeley. In short, between them, she brought away two dresses, one at eighteen shillings a yard, and the other at a guinea. Going home, our horses became unruly, and we were

obliged to alight; and, as we walked through Coventry-street, were overtaken by Sir Cecil Bishop. When we came to the great china-shop there, she went in and purchased as much china as came to thirteen pounds nine shillings, which Sir Cecil, with great gallantry, insisted on paying for; and, as our coach followed us, we got in, and Sir Cecil politely took his leave.—

“This,” said Mrs. Baddeley, “is the consequence of going abroad; had I staid at home, I should not have had this china.” “True,” said I, “but had you staid at home, you would not have been seventy pounds more in debt than you was yesterday.” On our return home, we found Lord Har-

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rington had called; and our man not being with us, the maid opened the door; his Lordship gave her half a guinea, and begged she would not fail to tell her mistress, that he would be there again in two hours; having made a little purchase, which he should beg her acceptance of. Mrs. Baddeley determined, therefore, to see him, to take, as she did from Lord Falmouth, what he had to present her with; and, meaning that this visit should be his last. He presently came, and said, a bauble had struck his fancy as he passed St. James's-street, which he begged she would do him the honour to accept; and wear in remembrance of him. This was a beautiful diamond hoop-ring, set in a pecu-

liar manner, that added to it's brilliancy; he requested permission to put it on, and placed it on the fourth finger of her left hand; saying, he wished himself and her, so circumstanced in life, that he could put it on in an honourable way; but, as fate put a bar between them, he could only assure her, that he presented it with as much sincerity, and put it on her finger with more love and affection, than he did Lady Harrington's, on his wedding-day. She could not but thank him for his genteel mode of making her a present, which she much admired; but, thought him no way justifiable in making such declarations, whilst so amiable a lady, as he had, was living. "My friends, my

" Lord,

" Lord," said she, " seem to have taken
 " up a wrong opinion of me; I am not
 " insensible of my indiscretions, and I
 " blush to own them; but, I am not
 " conscious there is any thing in my
 " conduct, that will justify attempts on
 " my fidelity. Though the law forbids
 " me to marry, I have a friend, to
 " whom I owe infinite obligations,
 " who indulges me in every thing my
 " heart can wish, and to whom a breach
 " of faith would be unpardonable. He,
 " like a real gentleman, does not de-
 " prive me of the pleasure of seeing my
 " friends; and, under this predicament,
 " were I to see them in any other light
 " than as *friends*, it would be the height
 " of ingratitude. Whilst your Lord-
 " ship

" ship thinks proper to consider me in
 " that light, I shall be proud of the
 " honour of your company, whenever
 " it may be agreeable to you; but, to
 " admit of your visits in any other cha-
 " racter, will be doing an injury to
 " your Lordship, to myself, and to
 " many." Lord Harrington, with all
 the sensibility of a generous mind, com-
 mended her; said, he had attended to
 her with pleasure; that, her sentiments
 were noble, and did her great honour,
 and, that he should value her for them;
 and, he had only to lament, that he
 was not that happy man, that was nearer
 to her person; for, though his person
 and age, gave him no right to claim
 the attention of so beautiful, and amiable

a woman

a woman as her, yet, as various things occurred in life, that might give a turn to her sentiments, and situations; he hoped, as she might ever command both him and his fortune, let that turn take place when it would, she would bestow a favourable thought upon him.

When his Lordship was gone, she admired his present, said she wanted such a ring, and asked me if I thought she acted right; saying, she was determined to act so, by every married man that addressed her; and, was unhappy at Lord Melbourne's being married; more on account of his Lady, than herself; for, whenever he was with her, it took off all the pleasure she would otherwise have

have in his company; "But," said she, "the misfortune is, I am so deep in the mire, that I stick fast." I then took the opportunity to try again, if I could not draw her into a more honest course of life; and even offered her, on conditions she would return to, and live by, her profession, to give her a full discharge from any demands I had upon her; and would endeavour, if she disliked a public life, to set her up in some business, that might support her in credit. As to the stage, she said, it was so much her detestation, that she would sooner meet her death, than engage on it again; and as to business, she was totally unfit for it. In short, she could not think of altering her situation, had

as

as it was, till she could not help it; she now was happy in her circumstances, and would endeavour to continue so.

There was now to be a Ridotto, at the Opera-house, and, the ladies were to appear in fancied dresses, without masks; we, therefore, began to prepare for it; and, she resolved to make up the silk she bought that day of Mr. King, for that purpose; and an elegant dress was made of it. It was a lilac-ground, with beautiful flowers, scattered down it. The sleeves were puckered gauze; worn with a veil, richly trimmed with point-lace, which flowed in a manner that considerably added to it's beauty. The house was crowded with persons of
the

the first rank, and the ladies spared no expence to vie with each other in splendor of appearance; but yet I must say, no dress pleased me so much as Mrs. Baddeley's; nor, was any so much admired. Lord and Lady Melbourne were there, arm in arm, and walked together the whole evening; but, his Lordship did not omit to give Mrs. Baddeley many pleasant looks; and, even Lady Melbourne bestowed a smile upon her. We staid till five in the morning; and were handed to our coach by Mr. Montagu, and Lord Clanbrazil.

On our return home, Mrs. Baddeley found herself not well; and conceived, for the first time in her life, she was in
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the way of many a married woman ; but, wished it might be kept a secret, till Lord Melbourne found it out himself; but this never happened; for, owing to a fright, in losing a favourite cat, which she had some reason to think was killed by a dog, she was taken ill, and miscarried. But we contrived it so, that no one knew it. It confined her to the house a fortnight. During this time she took an opportunity, by means of a friend, to give Mr. Gill to understand, (which he was to break to him by degrees,) that she had totally altered her mind about marrying; that, if she gave her hand to any one, it should be to him; yet, according to her present way of thinking, she would dispose of it

to no one. During this illness, Lord Melbourne was frequently with her, but never staid long; he told her, among other things, that his dear Betsy admired her dress, at the Ridotto, and said many civil things of her; and, he could have kissed her dear feet for it. She replied, that her Ladyship's attention to her, was more than she deserved; but, the fault was not her's; the blame rested with his Lordship.—“Yes,” returned he,

“Blame on, blame on, and be forgiven;

“And, by repentance, make a holiday in
Heaven:

“No more of this,—Here Mrs. Steele,
“is something to pay the doctor.” I
took it, and offered it to Mrs. Baddeley,
who

who had me put it in my pocket. When he was gone, we looked at the money, and found it to be two hundred pounds. I told her this would help; not much, she said, for it was time Mr. P. had some more money. Mr. P. came in the evening, and I gave him this money, and took his receipt. He said if I wanted it, I might keep it, in part of the four hundred pounds I lent him, but that it came in good time, for he had many calls upon him; I declined it; therefore, he put it in his pocket. Mrs. Baddeley sent for him up-stairs, was very lavish in her compliments to him, and thanks; and begged him to put her in a way how she might be of service to him, in return;

that she might shew her gratitude otherwise than by words. He replied, that the pleasure of being of use to her and me, was an ample recompence, and that he had no view in what he did but to serve us.

When he was gone, Mrs. Baddeley said, she was sure that Mr. P. was in love with me; and, that all his services to her was on that score; that she had observed him every time he came, and that his eyes were riveted on me, and had me remark her words; for I should soon know it; and though I smiled at the assertion, yet, I determined never to see him more, but in the presence of a third person, that he might have no opportunity

opportunity, if it was so, of declaring himself.

Nothing occurred, in the course of her illness, worth notice, (as the knocker was muffled, and she was denied to every one but Lord Melbourne) except a circumstance, respecting Mr. Dibden, of Drury-lane Theatre; which, though it does him little credit, I shall relate; to shew the unthankfulness of the world, and what little encouragement there is to do any one a good office. He is now living; and I dare him to contradict it. He had been under obligations to Mrs. Baddeley before, but came now to request the loan of twenty pounds. Having given Mr. P. all we

had to spare, she found herself obliged to tell him, that she was not at that moment mistress of such a sum; or, she would lend it him with pleasure. He then said, he was undone, for he had an execution in his house; and, if he did not pay the money that day, all would be carried off and sold. He asked her if she would accept a draft for him, at six weeks; saying, he should be in cash at that time, and would take it up himself. She said, she had never done such a thing; but, if it would serve him; on condition that he would keep his word, and pay it when due, she would so far oblige him; but, that he must not disappoint her, as she had so many debts of her own to pay, that she could not think

think of taking up that bill. He promised he would provide for it; drew the bill, and she accepted it. He passed this draft away; it became due, without Mr. Dibden's taking any notice of it, or even calling upon, or sending to us upon the subject. Of course it was brought to our house for payment. I told the bringer, Mr. Griffiths, who kept the Two Brewers, in Brewer-street; that Mrs. Baddeley was out of town, and that I could say nothing to it, Mr. Dibden having only borrowed her acceptance, and promised to honour the draft himself. He asked when she would be in town; I said in fourteen days. He then replied, he would wait that fourteen days with pleasure, if I would indorse it,

it, but not else; and, that in the course of that time, I might find Mr. Dibden and get it paid. As Mrs. Baddeley had accepted the bill, I thought my name of little consequence, and accordingly indorsed it. About three hours afterwards, as I was going down the steps from my door, a well-dressed man accosted me; said, he had some business with me, and wished me to return into the house, and he would then acquaint me with it. I objected to this, and begged he would tell me his business there; he replied, he had a writ against me, but did not wish any one to know it; and therefore, begged me to return within the house. This alarmed me, and we went in. He then told me, it

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was a trick that had been played me; and, that it was for the twenty pound draft, I had that day indorsed. He said, his name was Steele, that he was a Sheriff's Officer, and lived in King-street, Westminster; and added, that he saw the villainy of the proceeding, and would shew me all the indulgence he could. "Name your time, Madam," said he, "bail it, or pay it, it is the same, and "I will go immediately." I thanked him, gave him a guinea for his civility, said, I would advise with some friend on the occasion, and begged him to call the next day. I applied to an Attorney, who advised me to bail it, and stand trial; and, as I was a married woman, he would plead my coverture, and make them

them pay the costs, for their villainy.
“Send the officer to me Madam,” said he, “and I will undertake for you.” I sent for the officer, and he told me there were some disagreeable circumstances attending it, which I was not apprized of.
“There is a name,” said he, “on the bill, and the person does not exist, and should you bail it, it will enrage Griffiths, and perhaps lead him to give Mr. Dibden trouble.” I told him, Mr. Dibden was, in my opinion, a very respectable man, and above committing any improper action: he replied, he was of the same opinion, and advised, if I had any regard for him, to send for Griffiths, and pay him the money; in which case, the draft would be in my own possession, and

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I might do what I pleased with it. I told him, I *bad* a regard for Mr. Diben, and his character, and would sooner pay the money, than he should have any trouble. Griffiths was sent for, he produced the draft, seemed unwilling to part with it; but, I snatched it out of his hand, paid him the money and the costs, and bid him get out of my house. He was very impudent, threatened to prosecute me, but on the officer's saying, as I paid the money, I had a right to the bill; he could not help himself. He swore however, he would prosecute me, but the officer only laughed at him; said, he was well matched, and it was only trick for trick.

When

When they were gone, I wrote to Mr. Dibden, but could get no answer. I then went to Chelsea after him; but he was never to be seen. Chance however threw him in my way, about six weeks afterwards; and, on my asking him why he never called; he pleaded business, and a new piece coming out at the theatre, that engaged all his time. Telling him, that I had been arrested for his note, and that I wished he would give me the money, as I paid it out of my own pocket; he replied, he was out of cash; but, on my informing him, what his friend Griffiths had said, respecting a false indorsement, on the back of the bill, and that I should not have paid it, but for his sake, and to

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save him from any disagreeable consequences. He flew in a violent passion; swore at me; abused me in the grossest terms, and declared he would never pay me; that he was glad I was arrested; Mrs. Baddeley got her money easy enough; and, it was no great thing, if she had paid so small a sum for him. I then lost all patience; told him he was an ungrateful fellow; that, had *distress* been his excuse, I should have forgiven it, pitied him, and would have waited till it had suited him to repay me; but, to be so abused and served, for the pains I took to befriend him, was the most ungrateful return that I ever met with; and, that I would immediately sue him for the money.

He turned upon his heels, said, I might be d—n'd, and left me; and, to this hour, have I never received a shilling of it.

To come back to the subject of these memoirs. On our return one day from an airing, we were told that a Mr. Pigot had called, and said, he wished to see Mrs. Baddeley, on a matter of some moment, and would call again the next day. This was the Captain Pigot, whom we met with at Windsor; and, conceiving he had some message to deliver, from our friend there, when he came, he was admitted. But, his matter of moment, was only to tell Mrs. Baddeley, that he had no peace, night or day,

since

since he saw her; and, that he could not refrain from embracing the first opportunity of declaring how much he loved her; and, how unhappy he should be, if she would not admit of his visits.—She only laughed at his folly; said, she could not suppose him idle enough to conceive, that his visits would be acceptable to her, in the light he wished them to be considered; and, made use of the same arguments she had frequently held out to others, in a similar predicament. But, no reason could divert him from his purpose, unless she would promise to see him when he called. She, with a great deal of good sense, told him her situation made it imprudent in her to receive him; and, as her engagements,

and amusements seldom left her five minutes to spare, she could not think of it. But, he was too importunate, to be put off by this, and she could not otherwise get rid of him, than by assuring him, she should be happy to see him occasionally, among the rest of her friends; but, if his visits were too frequent, he must not be displeased, if she was sometimes denied. He dwelt long on the painful life he should live; that, the world without her, would be hateful to him, and so on; but, she would listen to none of it, and was forced to leave him abruptly, on a pretence of going out.

After

After he had left her, Mrs. Baddeley seemed to express a sorrow for the young man; as it hurt her to give pain to any one; but, at the same time, said, it was a very disagreeable thing, to be always importuned on a subject she could not attend to.—“ You know, my dear “ Steele,” said she, “ it is out of my “ power to receive such visits as his, “ and therefore I gave him a proper “ answer; for, he had better feel his dis- “ appointment now, than, after having “ received some encouragement from “ me, to meet with it hereafter. In- “ deed,” continued she, “ though it is “ pleasing to be admired and thought “ well of; it is to the last degree irksome, “ to be deprived of that rational conver-

"sation, which makes the company of
 "gentlemen so agreeable, and to have
 "one's ears filled with declarations of
 "love, and a parcel of nonsense, that
 "I am not in a situation to listen to. I
 "declare to you, my dear friend, I of-
 "ten wish I was a hermit, and lived in
 "a cave unnoticed by the world." In-
 deed, Mrs. Baddeley's romantic turn,
 frequently led her to wish herself in
 some sequestered retreat, and she seldom,
 when in the country, passed a neat cot-
 tage, but she would remark, that it
 looked like a happy place; and say, she
 believed the inhabitants were far more
 at ease, than those that walked in a
 more exalted sphere of life. They know
 no ambition; nor, have they a thought
 above

above their present situation. But, these reflections seldom continued; a few hours longer, and nothing was uppermost but dress and preparation, for the amusements of the metropolis, operas, plays, masquerades, Vauxhall, and Ranelagh. Our life was such a continued scene of bustle and dissipation, that I wonder how she looked so well. Often, in summer time, have we returned from a place of amusement, at three in the morning; and, without going to rest, have changed our dress, and gone off in our phaeton, ten or twelve miles to breakfast; and, have kept this up for five or six days together, without any sleep. In the morning, to an exhibition, or auction; this followed

followed by an airing, into Hyde-park; after that, to dress, then to the play; from thence, before the entertainment was over, away to Ranelagh, return perhaps at two; and, after supper and a little chat, the horses ordered, and to Epsom, or some other place again to breakfast; and, thus would she run on for many days together, and never say she was tired.—Whenever we have been travelling, let our journey be ever so long, she would travel night and day; always with four horses, and as fast as the drivers could make them go; for, she never had any fear of robbers, or of accidents. In this way, she spent a great deal of money; she was liberal to the drivers, gave them four shillings, where
others

others gave them only two ; and, to all the servants on the road, was equally bountiful ; so, that they flew at her command, and she was worshiped wherever she went. The horses on the road, were always on a full gallop, and this she called *going like herself*.

I recollect, one day, Mrs. Baddeley making an appointment with two persons in trade, with whom she dealt very largely, to meet them at Stains-bridge, at twelve, and dine with them. The reader will excuse my not mentioning their names, as each of them has a family, and it might not only create uneasiness, but tend to injure them in the opinion of their creditors ; for, though no harm

was

was meant in this meeting, yet the world is apt to misconstrue things, and I am not at present disposed to give it an opportunity of so doing. But, they were disappointed in the pleasure they designed themselves. She wished to go to my house near Henley, the day before, and so cross the country to Stains-bridge, the next day, which was about twenty-one miles distant. We travelled in her phaeton; and, though we left Henley at seven in the morning, we could not reach Stains-bridge by dinner; for, as we took no servant with us, (being on an expedition she was unwilling should be known, in the fashionable circle;) we missed our way; and, when we thought of being at Stains-bridge, we found ourselves

ourselves at Hertford-bridge, in the Salisbury road. The disappointment was mortifying; but, as we found our horses weary, we had no alternative, but to hire a post-chaise and four, and leave our carriage to follow us. When we reached Stains-bridge, it was dark, and our friends were just gone. A splendid dinner had been ordered for our entertainment; and, the landlord told us, the gentlemen said, they were sure some mistake or accident had happened, or we should have been there at the time appointed. They came down in a post-chaise and four, and returned in one. We staid at the Bush Inn all night; and, in the morning, one of these persons, finding, on an enquiry in Grafton-street, that

that we had left town for Henley, the day before we proposed to meet; concluded, we should be at Stains-bridge some part of the day before, and that he should hear of us there; he, accordingly, was at the Bush Inn by eight o'clock. This friend was not a little pleased that he enjoyed, by accident, Mrs. Baddeley's company alone. He ordered every thing the house afforded for breakfast, and the same for dinner; for, Mrs. Baddeley being under some obligations to him, could not refuse staying. This man, like her fashionable admirers, poured out his whole soul before her; and, if she would but have listened to him, would have given her a receipt for five hundred pounds, which she owed to him and his partners, without

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any regard to his family, property, or connexions. Her refusing to accept this, or listen to his proposals, put him out of humour, and led him to say, though he was not a Lord, he was no despisable character; and, he could assure her, he had the confidence of the first Lady in this kingdom, and did not a little pride himself upon the occasion.

Mrs. Baddeley was piqued at this, and began to redden; as she always did when she was vexed; and I wished her to say something proper to him upon the subject. She at last told him, she did not come there to take a dinner with him, but in a friendly manner, and could not suppose he would have

had a thought of what he had been pleased to say; that his words, "Though he was not a Lord," conveyed a double meaning, the explanation of which she was at no loss to comprehend. "I am sensible," added she, "that you are no Lord, and that I am no Lady; but, be what you will, Sir, I will never place my confidence in you, or give you an opportunity to boast of what the first Lady in the kingdom thinks proper to do with you. I have various reasons for my resolutions; but, as I mean not to offend you, shall keep them to myself: permit me, however, to say, that as I have it in my power to pay every just debt I owe, without discharging it in

" the

"the way you intimate, you may re-
 "serve your offers for those unhappy
 "women, who are not in so fortunate
 "a situation. You have a wife and
 "children, reserve your benevolence for
 "them, and leave me and my follies
 "to myself. I hold myself obliged to
 "you for this invitation, and had you
 "acted as a friend would have done,
 "should have spent my time agreeably
 "in your company; as it is, I blame my-
 "self for accepting it; and, had I staid
 "at home, I should have given no of-
 "fence, nor received any insult."—
 "Mrs. Baddeley," returned he, "if I
 "have said a word that can be deemed
 "an insult, I beg your pardon; for, I
 "meant no such thing. I too well

" know the favour you have done me,
 " by coming to this house; and, beg all
 " that is past, may be buried in obli-
 " vion; nor, shall I be happy, till you
 " tell me you have forgot it." She re-
 plied, it was not in her disposition to
 bear malice; and, as he had atoned
 for the affront, by his apology, she
 would think no more of it. Our horses
 were then ordered, and we paid our bill;
 he offered to do it, but Mrs. Baddeley
 would not suffer it. When our horses
 were ready, we took our leave and left
 him.

Mrs. Baddeley was more angry with
 herself for this excursion, than ever I
 saw her before. The trouble we had to

keep

keep our appointment, and the insult offered, so vexed her, that she could not forgive herself. "How do I despise myself," said she, "for my folly! After my refusing his receipt, to be reflected on in the spiteful manner he did!—But, I deserve it for accepting his invitation. From persons of fashion, except some few of them, one never hears an unpolite expression, nor any thing that can offend the most rigid chastity. Their elegance, their manner, their deportment, is captivating; but, these upstart shop-keepers are all rudeness and vulgarity; I hate them every where, but behind their counters."

Among the rest of those dissipated married men, who courted the favour of Mrs. Baddeley, at the expence of their domestic happiness; there was one, tho' less in rank than many of her admirers, was not less conspicuous in life. This gentleman's name, I must also keep secret, out of regard to his wife, now living, who had a particular friendship for Mrs. Baddeley; and who, notwithstanding the indiscretion of her husband, was known to live happy with him, either not seeing, or wishing not to see, his failings. Often have I heard her say, how happy she was in her husband, who was no way given to any attachment foreign to that he had sworn at the altar; and, declaring at the same time, that if he

was,

was, she would not live another hour with him. This gentleman was a merchant in the city, well known on the Royal Exchange, and was rich. Though accounted a miser, he was lavish in his bounty to Mrs. Baddeley, whom he first saw at Ranelagh, and, where an acquaintance first took place, between her and this merchant's wife; and, which she was desirous of cultivating, in hopes of introducing herself into the society of some ladies. The merchant came the next day, to ask how she did; said, he had not acquainted his wife with his coming, as it would have been a mortification to her, not to have come with him; and, noticing some china jars in one of the rooms, said he had a couple,
that

that he thought would match them; and, if she would do him the favour to accept them, he would send them to her. She did not see his view in this; but, they were given as an introduction to her favour. She accepted the jars; and very large and valuable ones they were. Lord Melbourne came in soon after they were brought, and being made acquainted with their history, said, it was kind in the merchant, and advised her to keep up his acquaintance, as it would be a respectable family to pass an occasional evening with. Lord Melbourne was scarcely gone, but a card was brought from the Merchant's Lady, inviting herself to tea that evening. She came in her own carriage, with servants

in

in rich liveries; and, as we sent for Dr. Arne, and Mrs. Baddeley sung, she was, as she was pleased to say, enchantingly entertained. Her husband came at nine o'clock to conduct her home; was more reserved than in the morning, and did not drop a word of the jars. The next morning he came again, to know if she had received them, and if they had met her approbation. She thanked him, but was sorry she had deprived his Lady of them. "Oh," said he, "she knew nothing of them, and "of course will not miss them." This opened our eyes a little; and, when he told us, how happy he was in this accidental acquaintance, and how much he felt himself attached to Mrs. Baddeley;

ley; for, as all the world adored her, it was no wonder he should do so too: in short, when he confessed he loved her, and was not ashamed to own it, Mrs. Baddeley's prudence took the alarm; "Oh, fie, Sir!" said she, "this declaration to me is a misfortune; for, out of respect to your Lady, it will be out of my power to see you, even on the terms I was proud to receive you before."—"Madam," returned he, "I love my wife no less for my affection to you."—"That's not possible," returned Mrs. Baddeley, "nor will I hear of such professions again; for, they are not only disagreeable to me, but they hurt me."—"Say not so, my dear Mrs. Baddeley," said he, "for

" for I must, and will love you; and,
 " here make you a tender of any thing
 " in my power to add to your happi-
 " ness. I have a fortune, which is no
 " despicable one, and any part of it you
 " may command." " Yes, Sir," re-
 turned she, " but you have a wife, and
 " five children to partake of it.—In
 " short, Sir, I tremble at your disposi-
 " tion, and am sorry you are acting to
 " the injury of an amiable family, and
 " seeking to disturb both your wife's
 " peace, and mine." " No, my dear
 " Madam," returned he, " believe me,
 " I have no such thought; but, in fact,
 " I am not sufficiently master of myself
 " to withstand your attractions, and I
 " feel no remorse in telling you so;
 " and

"and, as a token of my esteem, I have
 "brought with me a small present,
 "which I shall beg you to accept of,
 "on condition you promise to admit
 "me, when opportunity suits;" and,
 taking out a handful of bank-notes, he
 said, "here, Madam, are a thousand
 "pounds at your service, and as much
 "more when you please to have it, on
 "the terms I have mentioned." Mrs.
 Baddeley told him, that money was no
 object to her, nor would it tempt her
 contrary to her natural inclinations;
 therefore, begged him to put his notes
 into his book again, and never offend her
 more, by any further declarations of his
 folly; for, that she loved his wife, for
 her respectful attention to her, and if

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his whole fortune was laid down, she would not injure her in his affection, or his pocket; and, as this was her serious declaration, she hoped, as a gentleman, he would cease from proposing terms so dishonourable to his lady, and so painful to herself; that, she wished for a continuance of his friendship, but must decline it, unwilling as she was, if she was any more talked to on this subject, "All your preaching," said he, "my dear Mrs. Baddeley, is to little purpose. I feel myself so wretched, out of your company, and so happy in it; that I must find my way to you, in spite of every obstacle; and, if you refuse to see me, it will make me miserable." She replied, she ever had

a wish to make all her friends happy, except, when they required of her, what both prudence and justice forbad; “I thank my God,” exclaimed she, “among all the sins I have to answer for, I never betrayed a confidence, nor had connexions with the husband of any female friend; nor, shall any thing on earth tempt me to it.”—He expostulated with her a great deal, made large offers, and would have given her any sum of money she would name; and, went so far as to tender her fifteen hundred pounds. This, to do Mrs. Baddeley justice, had no weight with her, for money was not her idol; so she had enough for her use, she never coveted more, and was hurt, when it was mentioned

mentioned, even by her best friends; for, she had a wish, at all times, to have the man of her heart under such obligations to her, and not be under such to him. But here the case was different. Though various attempts were made by this Merchant to seduce her to compliance, she opposed them all; but never betrayed them to his wife, with whom she was on the most intimate footing; and, the gentleman, though he met with a repulse so repugnant to his wishes, could not but confess, he admired her more for her disposition than her beauty; acknowledged that her sentiments were noble and generous, and declared, that through life, he should revere, honour, and love her. Here

the matter ended. No more was ever mentioned on the subject on either side. Mrs. Baddeley preserved his friendship, and that of his wife's, till the day I parted with her, and probably to the end of her life. Thus would men often, to gratify a momentary pleasure, sacrifice a wife, a family, and fortune; and, thus would a few hours serious reasoning, bring such a man back to a proper way of thinking. Would the female sex take a lesson from this example of Mrs. Baddeley, and check their seducers in that riot of their passions, when reason is overcome; and lay before them, as she did, the rashness and extravagance of their pursuit, and the fatal consequences that await it; how greatly would they merit

merit the commendations of the virtuous; how high would they stand in the esteem of the world; and, how exalted in their own reflections! In saving themselves, they would often rescue a wretched family from destruction; and children, perhaps unborn, would be bound to bless their memory.

And yet, when Mrs. Baddeley refused this money, she was very much in want of it; for, Lord Melbourne, at this time kept his purse-strings so close, that she was often obliged to write to him for small sums; as the following letter will shew.

Q 3

“ My

" My Dear Love,

" I am exceedingly distressed for
 " twenty pounds, and if I have it not
 " to day, it will really be of bad con-
 " sequences.—I think, I am fully as de-
 " serving as *some folks* you are so atten-
 " tive to. I dare say you know who I
 " mean.—And I am sure, I have no
 " right to question you, but, am sorry
 " to think, you stand in need to be con-
 " stantly put in mind of your old
 " friends.

" God bless you!

" I am, most invariably your's,

" Sophia Baddeley."

To the Right Honourable

Lord Melbourne.

Being

Being induced one evening, to go to a puppet-show, called the *Fantocini*, we met with the Duke of Ancaſter, who ſat down by Mrs. Baddeley, and ſaid many civil things to her; but ſtared at her ſo much, during the whole exhibition; that ſhe grew uneaſy, fearing it would be noticed, and get into the newspapers; than which ſhe dreaded nothing more. When we left the place, ſhe remarked to me, that ſhe was ſure, ſhe ſhould ſee the Duke, or hear ſomething from him, before it was long; for he ſtared ſo much at her, that ſhe was almoſt out of countenance. Her words ſoon came to paſs; for, before ten the next morning, his Grace came to Grafton-ſtreet; muffled up in a great coat,
ſo

so as not to be known. Being desired to send up his name, he said, it was of no consequence, that he was with us last night, at the *Fantocini*, and if that was mentioned, Mrs. Baddeley would know who it was. He was admitted, and we went into the parlour to him. The Duke addressed himself to Mrs. Baddeley; hoped she was well which he could not say, was the case with him; as he had been much disturbed all night, wishing for the morning, that he might have an opportunity, of waiting on her, in order to say, that he never yet saw her at any public place, but she made him happy for the time; but, that this pleasure always ended in pain. "For," said his Grace, "you are such a wonder

" of

“ of nature, that no man can gaze on
 “ you unwounded.—You are in this re-
 “ spect like the Basilisk, whose eyes
 “ kill those whom they fix on.” Mrs.
 Baddeley replied, “ Your Grace has said
 “ sufficient to raise my vanity; but,
 “ conscious of my own imperfections,
 “ I shall set it down to flattery.” “ No,”
 returned the Duke, “ set it down as it
 “ is; to sincerity.—You are absolutely
 “ one of the wonders of the age.” She
 admitted this, but that it was for her im-
 prudence.” “ Not so, on my honour,”
 returned he, “ I mean for your per-
 “ sonal attractions; and, how happy must
 “ the man be, possessed of such a wo-
 “ man !” Mrs. Baddeley replied, As
 “ your Grace, has been pleased to
 “ pay

“ pay me such a compliment; permit
 “ me in return to say, how happy
 “ must the Duchess of Ancafter be, in
 “ such a husband as your Grace; pro-
 “ vided, you would think of no other
 “ woman!” “ I do not,” returned the
 Duke, “ except it be of you, and, it is
 “ not in my power to avoid it. My
 “ declarations have been frequent to
 “ you on this head; but, as you never
 “ noticed them, I must own, I grew
 “ weary in the pursuit; but, the acci-
 “ dental interview of last night, has re-
 “ newed all my former wishes, and, I
 “ could no longer resist the inclination
 “ of telling you so; and could I have
 “ the satisfaction to find you meet my
 “ wishes, you should be as happy as my
 “ fortune

“fortune and my attention could
“make you.” Mrs. Baddeley heard
his Grace out patiently, and, when he
paused, she made him this reply.
“When I consider your Grace’s rank
“in life, I hold myself in duty bound,
“to thank you for the honour of your
“notice; but, when I reflect on the na-
“ture of that notice, that condescension
“which brought your Grace here, and
“the impropriety of the visit; my heart
“shudders at the consequence. I own
“myself to be, a weak, foolish woman,
“given up to the pleasures of the world,
“and, I confess, that to support that dis-
“position, and my inclinations, I have
“done things, which I ought not to
“have done; but I trust, I have not
“gone

“ gone such lengths in wickedness, as to
“ disturb the peace of families. In my
“ present situation, I want for nothing,
“ but, the sole affection of the man, I
“ am under obligations to. This in-
“ deed, I am not entitled to; and, if I
“ have err’d with him, it shall be the
“ last fault of the kind I will commit.
“ The uneasiness I have felt, on that
“ account, has been sufficient cause for
“ reflection; and, has made me deter-
“ mine, that I never will listen to the
“ proposals of any married man again.
“ Your Grace, will, I trust, therefore
“ pardon me for saying, I must, and
“ will decline, hearing any thing that
“ may tend to your dishonour, as well
“ as my own. I have as high a re-
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"spect for your Grace, as any one can
 "have; and, should be unhappy to of-
 "fend you; nay, was your Grace to
 "lay any commands on me, in an ho-
 "nourable way, I would risk my life
 "to obey them; but, in the present
 "state of things, I must decline them,
 "and hope I shall not displease, by so
 "doing." "Indeed, Mrs. Baddeley,"
 returned the Duke, "you do not dis-
 "please me; I have listened to you
 "with real pleasure, and think myself
 "highly indebted to you; little did I
 "expect to be so politely admonished,
 "as you have done it; and be assured,
 "as far as I can follow your advice,
 "I will strictly adhere to it; and, in re-
 "turn, you will, at all times, find me
 "happy to serve you, or oblige you.

“ Should you ever stand in need of a
“ friend, (as we all sometime or other
“ do,) be assured you will find one in
“ me, and I hope you will not omit ap-
“ plying to me, on every little occur-
“ rence, where I can be of service.
“ I find you full of sensibility, and no-
“ ble sentiment, beyond the power of
“ temptation, and free from avarice;
“ as such, you deserve *my* applause, and
“ that of every thinking person; and,
“ depend on it, as a man of honour, I
“ will never distress you, by a repeti-
“ tion of this business; but, adore you
“ in silence and contemplation.

When his Grace left us, Mrs. Bad-
deley, as usual, asked me, how I ap-
proved of her conduct, and whether I
did

did not think she acted with propriety; I told her I did, and that it had a very proper effect upon the Duke. She then asked me, whether she appeared graceful in the delivery of her sentiments; for she saw him watch every motion of her's. "That," replied I, "I did not attend to; but, your expressions were such as became you." "Well then," said she, "Steele, you see I can now withstand temptations;" "Yes," returned I, "and had you done so, from the commencement of our acquaintance; how happy a woman would you have been; and how comfortably should you and I have sat down and enjoyed ourselves!" "What's past," said Mrs. Baddeley, "must be forgot; you perceive I mend daily. I

“ now see into the folly of mankind, and
“ cannot but observe, how much more
“ they respect the woman, who checks
“ their inclinations, and puts a negative
“ to what they solicit; than she who
“ falls in with their wishes, and gratifys
“ them by compliance. I will endea-
“ vour, therefore, to secure their friend-
“ ship, by my prudence; and act with
“ the reserve you wish me.” Scarce had
she uttered these words, before Lord
Melbourne came in, and said, he was
come to stay with her a few hours. He
told her, he was going to Bath, at least,
he supposed he should; for, his dear
Betsey had talked of it, and if he went,
he should be gone three weeks. “ If
“ you do,” said Mrs. Baddeley, “ I will,
“ in

“ in your absence, make an excursion
 “ into the country.” With this he seemed pleased. Whilst his Lordship was with her above, Mr. P. came to tell me, that having agreed for the purchase of an estate, he was in want of money; and asked me, if I could help him to any; on my saying, I could not at present, he turned it off with, he would endeavour to shift without my assistance. He then told me, how much trouble he had taken, in Mrs. Baddeley’s affairs; what sums he had paid for her, besides the draft he had accepted on her account, and that he was considerably in advance; all which, he was pleased to say, was to oblige me; for, that Mrs. Baddeley was not any thing to him, nor would he accept any favour from

her in return; his view being to serve me, as he was convinced her affairs must have a great deal embarrassed me; that, he advanced the money, upon my credit, knowing that it was safe in my hands, and that he should look to me, and me only, when it suited for a reimbursement. All this I looked over; as it served her, I was satisfied, be it on whose account it might. He then enquired, whether Lord Melbourne had been more liberal to her lately; I told him not; but, that his Lordship promised to discharge the whole of her debts, and had been informed of his kindness to her; and begged, if he was in want of the money, he would say so, and I would ask Lord Melbourne for it. He replied, "By no means; I will wait his
"convenience."

"convenience." He then told me, he had that day paid one hundred and seventy pounds for Mrs. Baddeley; and also paid my landlord, one hundred pounds, for half a year's rent, on my account, and placed it against the four hundred pounds I had lent him, and gave me the receipt, taken in my name. Mr. P. went away soon after this; and Lord Melbourne came down to me, and as he went out, said, he had not forgot me; that, I should have money from him soon, and begged me to go up to Mrs. Baddeley, who was ill, with her old complaint, a head-ach. I went up to her, and found her head-ach was a pretence to quiet Lord Melbourne, who, from being in high spirits, was as noisy as he could be. On telling her the conversation

versation that passed, between me and Mr. P. and saying, he had paid one hundred pounds for rent, which he charged to my separate account; she said, Lord Melbourne might be ashamed of himself, for not keeping his word with me, (alluding to his promise of paying the rent of Grafton-street house), but that should he not do it, she would, some time or other. I told her, that unless his Lordship did, *she* never should; and turned the subject.

As his Lordship meant to be absent from town, three weeks, Mrs. Baddeley seemed resolved, on an excursion. Many places were thought of; but, at last it was determined between us, to go to Margate. The next day, however, we

went

went to Ranelagh, where Colonel Lut-
terel, now Lord Carhampton, took
some pains to introduce himself to Mrs.
Baddeley's notice. Those who are ho-
noured with the acquaintance of this
Nobleman, must allow him to be a
man of refined sentiments, highly po-
lished, and a complete Gentleman.
Mrs. Baddeley, was much taken with
his address, and engaging manners; and,
he drank tea with us. In the course of
conversation, he told us, he should set
off in a few days, for Luttrell's-town,
near Dublin, the place of his residence,
where Lord Townshend then was; and,
how happy he should think himself, if
Mrs. Baddeley would take a trip to see
him; that, he would shew her Ireland,
all over, if she wished to see it, and
assured

assured her, his situation was so delightful, that it would give her great pleasure. He continued in our company the whole evening, and seemed not a little pleased, that he was enviously noticed by his friends. When we thought proper to go home, he politely attended us to our carriage, hoped Mrs. Baddeley would accept his invitation, and said, he would call on her the next day.

Mrs. Baddeley was delighted with this new acquaintance, thought the Colonel a very sensible well-bred man; but, what took with her most, was, that he did not, like the rest of her noble friends, make her sick with a heap of nonsense about love, beauty, attractions, and the like;

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like; but, his conversation was manly, sensible, and chearful, and she hoped she should see him the next day. She said, she should be delighted to see Ireland; and, as soon as she could arrange her affairs with Mr. P. and Lord Melbourne gave her money to pay him, she would absolutely take a trip there; for, she could go there and back in a month, allowing herself three weeks in the place. I said a great deal in opposition to this scheme, and told her, that the impropriety ought to forbid it. She replied, the Colonel was a gentleman of too much honour and sensibility, to urge her to any thing against her inclinations. But the world, I told her, would condemn her, though she might not deserve it. She said, if she was to study
to

to please the world, she should have enough to do. I then urged her to study her own interest, and asked her whether she thought Lord Melbourne would approve of it. She did not mean, she said, to tell him any thing about it; she should say, she was going to some other place; that she would change her name, and hide herself from all who knew her. In short, she was determined to go there, before a month was over her head.

Next morning, Colonel Lutterel came, and went with us to see a relation of mine at Chelsea, where we staid dinner; and, in the course of the day Luttrel's town was again mentioned, when Mrs. Baddeley said, "I intend to
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“see that sweet place shortly;” and, the lady we were with, saying, she should like to see it also, the Colonel gave her a friendly invitation to come over with Mrs. Baddeley; for, she was a chearful woman, and pleased the Colonel much. She said, her husband was going to Portsmouth for two months, and as she might go in his absence, begged not a word of it might be dropped to him, he being out of the room when the matter was talked of. This determined Mrs. Baddeley at once, and the Colonel pressing them to promise him, they assured him he should see them there before the expiration of a month. The Colonel then entertained them with the amusements and delights of the place, romantic country of Wales, through

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which they would travel; the charming mountains they would have to pass over; the harps they would hear at every door; in short, he gave them so pleasing an account of what they would see, hear, and meet with, that they were both in raptures. We spent the evening with our friends, and being asked to breakfast with them, the next morning, and the Colonel accepting the invitation, we called on him in our way there, and took him in our carriage. We breakfasted in a tent upon a lawn, and our friends having provided a band, who played some soft music; we fancied ourselves in Elysium. When we took our leave, the invitation to Ireland was renewed, and as cordially accepted. The Colonel would fain have

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have had me go with them, but I refused; as I thought it would be necessary to be in the way, to give answers to any enquiries that might be made. Mrs. Baddeley pressed me to accompany her, saying, she should not be happy without me; but, as I promised to come and fetch her back, she was pretty easy, and suffered me to stay. The Colonel was soon let into the whole of Mrs. Baddeley's situation; saw the propriety of my staying in London to keep Mr. P. easy; he said, he was sorry he was so circumstanced, that he could not pay her debts himself; (and as he was a man without deception, she believed him) but, that her absence might spur Lord Melbourne on to do it; and hoped, that when all was quiet, I would come

over to them: and, it was settled, that no one should know where she went, nor even our own servants, except her man and maid, whom she would take with her, and my daughter, a child about nine years of age; for, she would not go without her, being part, she was pleased to say, of myself.

The next day we all dined with Colonel Lutterel, at his house, in Curzon-street, May-fair, and went to the play in the evening; and he seemed proud of being in Mrs. Baddeley's company, and to be there noticed by all his acquaintance.

The journey was now settled, and the mode of travelling fixed on; but, where

was

was the money to defray the expences? This I proposed to lend Mrs. Baddeley, and said, I would let her have two hundred pounds. Finding now no obstacle, she was quite wild with pleasure; went to her fellow-traveller, and settled the matter with her, who was equally as eager as herself. We all dined with the Colonel, and the next morning, before his departure for Ireland, he breakfasted with us, and took his leave.

This friend of mine continued with us four days, and was joined by the family from Windsor, where we had been well entertained. During the time they staid, we took every means of shewing them what was worth seeing in London;

and, on their return, they had our horses and carriage as far as Hounslow.

Mrs. Baddeley began now to prepare for her journey. She ordered a new riding-habit, white, with a pale blue silk waistcoat, trimmed with silver lace, spangles, and silver frogs, as was then the fashion; with as elegant a hat as could be made. She had a variety of new clothes made up for the occasion, and was ready in a week; but, Lord Melbourne, in all this time, did not give her a guinea. She now waited impatiently for his going to Bath. That journey was, however, put off; but, as good luck would have it, he came and told her, that he was going out of town for fourteen days; and, on his return, would

MRS. SOPHIA BADDELEY. 515

would make her happy. It was, in consequence of this, planned, that she should go as soon as he went; and, on his return, he was to be told, that she was with a relation of mine near Henley. Before she set off, I gave her my advice; told her, she was going to the house of a gay man, an admirer of the women; and I feared he would expect, what she, with prudence, should refuse. She bad me not to be uneasy, that he had never yet said, or offered any thing that could offend the chastest ear; and, that she had that confidence in his integrity, that she could trust herself with him in any place. "In short," said she, "let him make what advances he will, I now see the way to be respected, is to be reserved; and, I am determined

blow. "terminated

"terminated to secure his esteem by such
"conduct."

We began to talk of her going to my house at Henley, as a blind to our servants, and they all believed it was so designed; and, my friend's husband going to Portsmouth the next day, where he had an office under government, she would be ready at any time. This we heard on the Thursday, and it was agreed that they should set off the Sunday following. In the interim came Mr. John Hanger, to tell us of the death of his father; this was in the year 1773; but, Mrs. Baddeley pleaded illness, and would not see him. I saw him, and perswaded myself, as he was now come to the title and estate, he would

would have it in his power to shew Mrs. Baddeley some gratitude for all that was past, and told him so; but, he only laughed, and turned upon his heel, with "A good morning to you, Mrs. Steele." When I told Mrs. Baddeley of this, she said, "I don't believe I shall be any thing the better for him or his title. His vanity is raised, I dare say, but, I cannot compliment him, when I consider his treatment of me. If he possessed a good heart, he would now come, and tell me he would atone for all his past behaviour, and do me justice; but, he is a stranger to every thing that is right, and thinks of no one but himself."

Every

Every thing was now left in my charge, not only respecting Mrs. Baddeley, but every thing belonging to my friend. On Saturday night, she left town in the phaeton, took her man and her maid with her, but they were not let into the secret, till they were at some distance from town. They went in the stage before them. We drove to my friend's house at Chelsea, where the phaeton was to be put up, till their return, and the next morning they set off in a post-coach and four for Chester. I went with them as far as St. Alban's, where we parted; and, I thought Mrs. Baddeley would have broke her heart; she sobbed and cried like a child, and I never thought she loved me till then. In short, our parting was an affecting scene,

scene, for there was not a dry eye among us. She promised to write to me daily, and kept her word; her letters were directed, to be left at the post-office, till called for, and I thus travelled with her; for, she was very minute in all the accounts she gave me. She passed for the Honourable Mrs. Steele. In five days, they reached Holy-head, and hired a packet, to carry them to Dublin.

She had not been absent two days, before Mr. P. called, and enquired if I had any money for him, and where Mrs. Baddeley was gone. I told him, she was gone to my house in Oxfordshire, for a few days; and, that as to money, I was as bare, as when he called last.

He

He then enquired where Lord Melbourne was; and, on my saying, he was gone out of town, for a fortnight, seemed much disappointed; and said, several drafts, he had accepted on Mrs. Baddeley's account, would be due in a day or two, and he did not know what he should do. I told him, Lord Melbourne had promised us money on his return, and hoped, that would be time enough; he replied, if I could not help him to any sooner, it must be time enough; but, that it would put him to some inconveniencies; and, on his Lordship's return, should he not give me any voluntarily, I must ask him for some. I told him, I was under no apprehensions, respecting his bounty, for I had no doubt, but he would do as
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he always had done. He seemed satisfied with this, and left me.

During Mrs. Baddeley's absence, most of her friends called, to enquire after her, and among the rest Lord Coleraine, who was a troublesome visitant, whenever he came. He was more like a mad-man, than any thing else; vowing, he would never forgive me, if I did not tell him where Mrs. Baddeley was; that, see her he must, and would find her, if she was above ground; for, that he was wretched, and miserable without her. I told him she was not far off, but where she wished to see no one; and that I was sure, if chance threw him in her way, she would not speak to him; as she never could forget the injuries

she had received from him. He replied, if I would not tell him, he would try if he could not find her out; for, he would spare no expence; and would hunt her to the world's end. He strove to bribe my servants, but it was to no purpose; for we had acted so, that, they were as much strangers to the place where she was, as his Lordship. He enquired at every inn in town, to know whether any horses had been sent for to our house; went down to my house near Henley, where he had some suspicion he should find her, and made all the enquiries, in that neighbourhood, he could. He then came back again to me, told me where he had been, and the pains he had taken to find her; I asked his Lordship, from whom he had
his

his information, that she was in Oxfordshire; he told me, he had been made acquainted that she was there, but, I found it was not true; she had been there, I told him, but was now gone down to bathe in the sea. He no sooner heard this, than off he flew to Brighthelmstone, and not finding her there, was back with me the next day, saying, where he had been, and offered me five hundred pounds in bank-notes, for my own use, if I would tell him where he could find her. I told his Lordship that a bribe had no weight with me; that I would not tell him, and therefore, begged he would tease me no more. He cried, and swore, and raved like a mad-man, on which I left him to himself, and he soon went away, and I saw no more

of him for three days. In this time he travelled, night and day to Margate, Ramsgate, Southampton, Weymouth, and I know not where, in search of her. He then returned to me, informed me of his ill success, and entreated me as before, and offered me a thousand pounds. I then found myself under the necessity of declaring, by all that was good and sacred, that I would never tell him; and requested, he would come no more to my house, for that I would not be so troubled; it being her wish not to see him; and that she had secreted herself, for that very purpose. I asked him, as he was now so much in cash, whether, on condition of my telling him where she was, he would pay all her debts, which amounted to near
four

four thousand pounds, including what she owed me. He replied, he had not money enough, or he would. "How much then," returned I, "will you pay towards them?" "Tell me," said his Lordship, "first where she is, and you shall then know." I told him, if he would give me his bond, to pay three thousand pounds, I would tell him, and that he should have six months allowed him to pay two thousand pounds of the money. He would do no such thing; "Then why," returned I, "did you offer me such a sum, and will not do as you ought, by Mrs. Baddeley, whom you profess so much to love? The thousand pounds you offered me, I will give to her; and, if you will add two thou-

“ sand pounds more to it, you shall
“ know where she is, but on no other
“ terms. Now, if your Lordship va-
“ lues her, as you pretend to do, you
“ would chearfully embrace the propo-
“ sal; but, permit me to say, at the
“ same time, that unless you agree to
“ it this day, an offer of ten times the
“ sum to-morrow shall not open my
“ lips.” He said, I should have the
thousand pounds he offered; but he
could give no more. At this I told
him, I would not accept a shilling of
him on that score; but, if he would pay
me the money he owed me, I would
take it, and thank him. This he would
not do. I then gave him to understand,
that what I had said, respecting her
debts, was merely to try how far his
value

value for her would extend; that in fact she was not in want of his assistance; but, that I saw plainly, if she had been, he would be the last person, that would stand forth to relieve her; that I requested, I might never see him again, and that if he called a hundred times, I would always be denied; at this he took himself away, angrily, saying, he should call and try, whether he could not see me, notwithstanding what I was pleased to say to the contrary. He now, some way or other, found his way to the lady's house at Chelsea, and, by bribing the servants, got intelligence, that she was in Oxfordshire; though this he contradicted, saying, he had been there, and could hear nothing of her. The servants, who supposed she was there
with

with their mistress, assured his Lordship, that they went together, and that they must be there. He then enquired for their master, and learned, he was at Portsmouth. Now she had written two letters, left them with me for her husband, one to be sent each week, during her absence: one of these letters I had sent the day before. His Lordship followed this letter the next day to Portsmouth, and told the lady's husband, that he was come in search of Mrs. Baddeley, who he was informed, was gone off to some distance from London, with his wife. "That is impossible," said the Gentleman, "for I received a letter from her this day dated Chelsea." Lord Coleraine, assured him, she was not there, and, if the letter was sent him, he was imposed upon;

upon; for, that he was at his house the day before, and that she had been gone some days. "Where is Mrs. Steele?" said the Gentleman. "In Grafton-street," returned his Lordship, "and as obstinate as the devil; determined not to tell me where she is; but, by a fee to a man who assisted her coachman, I learned your lady was gone off with her." "Depend upon it, my Lord," returned the Gentleman, "you will find Mrs. Baddeley secreted at my house." Lord Coleraine then offered him five hundred guineas, if he would go to town with him, and convince him of it. His reply was, "As the stores of Portsmouth-yard are wholly under my care, and I am obliged to attend

" the

“ the delivery of them, I cannot go
“ for some days, but I will write to
“ my wife, and I dare say shall have
“ an answer from her; and, as your
“ Lordship seems so unhappy, you shall
“ know from me what she says upon
“ the occasion.” This being agreed on,
his Lordship returned to town.

Finding, by my servants, that Lord Coleraine meant to go to Portsmouth, in search of her; I thought it prudent, for my friend's sake, to go there also: I accordingly went, and requested that if Lord Coleraine, or any person from him, should enquire about Mrs. Baddeley, not to say, that she was at his house at Chelsea; when she, in fact, was gone to be secreted from him. The
Gentleman

Gentleman asked why he was not made acquainted with this before ; and, then told me of Lord Coleraine's being with him, and what he had promised, in consequence of it. " He would have persuaded me," said he, " that my wife was gone off, to some place or other, but he could not learn where ; and, I was just going to write, to enquire into the matter ; for, had she dared to have done such a thing, without my knowledge, I never would forgive her." " Oh," replied I, " make yourself easy, for, I know your wife well, and am convinced she would not think of such a thing. You must therefore, keep this affair a secret." He assured me he would. I urged him to accompany me to town, knowing he could not,

not, which he excused himself from doing, being tied by the leg, he said, for a month to come. Glad was I to hear this, though I pretended the contrary; for, this Gentleman was a Dane, and of a jealous disposition, though he had very little cause for it; and, I should have been sorry, had he known his wife was from home. He desired me to leave his Lordship to him, and he would match him; for if he came again, he would say, they were gone to Tunbridge-wells. For, "I assure you, my dear Mrs. Steele," said he, "though I did not give much credit to his Lordship's tale, it made me rather uneasy; as, when a man is so far distant from home, there is no knowing what may happen." I staid at

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Portsmouth that night, spent the evening with him; and in the morning, at parting, he wished me to tell his wife, to send him down ten pounds, by the coach, the next day. Having ten pounds in my pocket to spare, I begged him to take it, and I would receive it of his wife in town. This I did to prevent a discovery; he took it kind, and we parted. In my way home, I called at my friend's house, at Chelsea, and found from the servants, that Lord Coleraine had been there and insisted on seeing Mrs. Baddeley, who he knew was in that house; for, he had been at Portsmouth, and their master had told him so; that, he ran up-stairs, and finding the rooms locked, would not believe but she was there with their mistress, and that

he said, he would be there again. I told them, at their peril, not to let him in any more; for whoever did, should be discharged. They assured me, one and all, that they would obey my directions, and should not have suffered him, to go up-stairs as he did, if he had not been a Lord, and thought he must not be affronted. "You have nothing more to say," replied I, "should he call again, but, that your mistress is from home; and, has given strict orders not to admit him; and, should he ask for Mrs. Baddeley, to tell him, she is not at your house but gone, as she is determined not to see him; and then come and acquaint me, with the result." On my return home, I found he had been there, told the servants,

vants, he had been at my house, near Henley, and, at Portsmouth, and had learned, Mrs. Baddeley was at Chelsea; that he had a message to deliver to me from Portsmouth, and must see me.

I sent to the Post-office, and received two letters from Mrs. Baddeley, from Luttrell's town, in Ireland, saying, she was safe arrived at the seat of Colonel Lutterell; that the reception she met with, was greater even than she expected; and, that the Colonel's behaviour, and attention was so engaging, that she liked him prodigiously; that a Colonel Smith was there also on a visit; that the mansion was an elegant one, superbly furnished; that the Park, in which it stood, was a noble, and extensive

one; that, she wanted only my company, to complete her happiness; and that the whole party wished to see me, as soon as possible.

Whilst I was reading these letters, my maid came up and said, Lord Coleraine's servant was below, having a message to deliver me from his master. This man brought Lord Coleraine's compliments to me, and informed me, that his master was convinced Mrs. Baddeley was secreted at Chelsea, and that he was determined to see her, if he lost his life in the attempt; that, he was there not an hour ago, and found the doors all locked, by order of the lady of the house, and no admittance for him; and, that

that he was informed Mrs. Baddeley was gone, which he knew to be false. I told the servant that his master should beware molesting people in their own houses; that, the lady had applied to her attorney in consequence of his behaviour, and I had no doubt, but an action would be brought against him. The servant, who was a complete Irishman, swore by Jafus, that he believed his master was mad for Mrs. Baddeley; that, he would not let them rest day or night, but was every where flinging about after her, and the devil-a-bit of ease could they get; that his Lord was now sure she was at Chelsea, and it was a pity that where there was so much love, there should be so little satisfaction; that, for sartain, according to what he could

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Iarn, he did deserve to feel a little bit of uneasiness for his tricks; but yet, God bless him, there was no necessity for killing the poor gentleman out-right. "Tell your Lord from me," replied I, "that Mrs. Baddeley, determined not to see him, is gone to some other place; and if he persists—" "Do, dear lady," returned the man, "put what you have to say on a piece of paper; for I dare as well eat my tongue as tell him." This I refused to do, and he went off with "Your servant, good lady. If you had sent a kinder message to my maister, you would not have repented it."

As soon as he was gone, I sat down and wrote to Mrs. Baddeley, every thing

thing about Lord Coleraine, excepting what related to her friend's husband; requesting directions how to act, saying, she must not expect me, till I had seen Lord Melbourne, and could some way or other settle matters with Mr. P. I took this letter to Lombard-street, and directed it, under cover, to Colonel Eutterell. Whilst I was gone, Mr. P. called, and left word, he had something of consequence to inform me of, and would call again in the evening. I supposed it was about money matters; but, when he came, found myself deceived. Lord Coleraine had hunted him out, told him a long tale of Mrs. Baddeley, that she was gone off, and no one knew where, and asked him if he knew where she was; he told his Lordship, she was

at

at my house near Henley, which Lord Coleraine contradicted, saying, he had been there. "And now," with a very serious face, said he, "it is time, Mrs. Steele, I should ask you where she really is." I replied, "Safe enough from Lord Coleraine, who she is determined not to see, and I commend her for it; for, I made a proposal to him, that if he would pay her debts, I would acquaint him where she was; and, if he had such a wish to see her, as he seems to have, I doubted not but that he would embrace the terms. This he refused, and I then turned it off, and said, 'I made the proposal only to try him.' I am convinced, Sir," continued I, "that he must have some ill design, or he would
" advance

“ advance some money for her, when
 “ he could offer me a thousand pounds
 “ to tell him where she was.” Mr. P.
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 she had received from him, he ought to
 advance her some money; and, that I
 did right to keep him in the dark; but,
 there was no reason why I should keep
 him so. I told him, I had no reason to
 conceal it from him, only, that she was
 removing so from place to place, to
 elude Lord Coleraine, that she scarce
 knew where she was herself. Mr. P.
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 when

when he came to town, or he should be greatly inconvenienced. I told him, there was but little doubt of it, and he seemed contented; but, I now plainly saw I had sufficient to encounter, and was far from being happy, having a thousand things to perplex me, and no one to advise with, or open my mind to; for, I don't know any one comfort so great, as to have a friend to unbesom one's self to, in difficulties, though that friend can afford no assistance. I was daily called on by Mrs. Baddeley's friends of fashion, but, these were not such persons as I could talk with, on our private concerns.

The next post brought me a long and affectionate letter from Mrs. Baddeley, containing,

containing, to my great surprize, a resolution, on her part, to stay and end her days where she was, and waiting only my answer on the subject, to determine her; that, she was more happy than she could express, but must have me with her; for a palace would be a dungeon without me; that Colonel Lutterell said he should be proud to have me with her; that, I had only to say the word, and all things would be made easy to me. "I will then," said she, "give up all my friends in London, "and shall have nothing to do with "married men, for the Colonel is a "single one: with him I have done, "what cannot be undone, and, I do "not repent it; for, he is possessed of "a good heart, and I love him well
" enough

" enough to live happy with him for
 " life. Was I a princess, he could not
 " pay me more respect than he does;
 " for, I have not a wish or a thought,
 " but he studies to gratify; and, as I
 " am determined to be grateful on my
 " part, nothing shall take me from
 " him, unless you tell me you will not
 " live in this country; so, send me
 " your dear answer, and I will then
 " tell you some news that will please
 " you."

END OF THE FOURTH VOLUME.



Handwritten text, mostly illegible due to fading and bleed-through from the reverse side. The text appears to be organized into several paragraphs.



